DWIGHT YORKE SUSIE ORBACH

AND FOOD

ANNA WINTOUR: THE QUEEN OF FASHION

RICHARD EYRE - HOWARD JACOBSON - SIMON HOPKINSON - ANNA PAVORD - MAGNUS MILLS - ANN TRENEMAN - SIMON CALDER



Snow blanketing the Swiss village of Biel. Avalanches have recently swept through many areas of the Alps and more are forecast this weekend. Report, page 3 Rene Ritles

Call centres to control patients' access to GPs

A REVOLUTION in the way paients gain access to medical care is being planned by ministers, reducing the pressure on the NHS by encouraging mere people to ireat themselves at

The controversial scheme involves replacing GPs with nurses as the first point of contact for patients by routing all calls to family doctors and hospitals through a single NHS telephone number.

Callers to the number would receive advice on treatment have a bigger impact on pafrom the nurses, who would tients than all the NHS realso book appointments where forms of the past decade, will necessary. It would mean the involve a huge expansion of the creation of a new gateway to the existing NHS Direct helpline, NHS, which patients would which is staffed by nurses who pass through to get to fheir GP, provide advice to patients 24 traditionally regarded as the gatekeeper to the service.

LOWEST LINERER

100 minutes of

only those patients who need the attention of a doctor get it, while the rest are helped to look after themselves.

Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, told The Independent that the plan, which is to be tested in Northumberland, was still in the early stages of development and would have to prove its effectiveness before it was introduced nationally.

"If it works and it works well, it could be the biggest a backward step." change in health care the couniry has ever known.

"It would mean a different form of access to primary and in parallel to the existing GP

factory for patients, profes-The plan was welcomed yes-

tering system to ensure that terday by the British Medical Association and patients' organisations but opposition MPs warned it would threaten the personal care provided by GPs. Alan Duncan, Tory health spokesman, said: "Such a scheme would be a highly centralised, impersonal system.

The local link with the GP practice is very valuable. That is what primary care is about. To route everything through an enormous call-centre would be

Ministers have been encouraged by the success of the NHS Direct helpline, which was introduced in three pilot community services which, if it areas last year to give patients The shake-up, which would and hospital service, the plan works, would be more satis- instant advice and help to ease

the promotion of sports events,

a bid to buy Wembley in a move

that could scupper England's

bid to stage the 2006 World

The current owners, Wemb-

ley pic, have already agreed to

sell the venue in a deal under

which a renovated Wembley

would be the centrepiece of the

Football Association's 2006 bid.

is understood to be preparing

pressure on hospital accident and all daytime calls fare sionals and the health service," and emergency departments. planned to follow at a later An unpublished survey by Sheffield University showed 97 per cent of callers were satis-

fied with the help they received. The survey also showed that while 20 per cent of callers were advised to seek more urgent care than they had planned, such as by calling an ambulance, 40 per cent were advised to do less than they planned, such as going to bed with a hot drink rather than calling out the GP

NHS Direct is being rolled out nationally from April, a year earlier than planned, but in Northumberland, one of the three original pilot areas, it is being pressed into its new role. From July all out-of-hours calls to GP deputising services will

date.

Dr Kevin McKenna, the medical director of NHS Direct Northumbria, said that a lot of time and resources were being wasted in the NHS treating departments while patients with life-threatening conditions did not get the care that they needed.

The aim of the scheme was to direct patients to the best

care for their situation. "Work is under way by the NHS executive and the Cabinet Office and it is very much in the development stage. If it goes as it should it would change the whole of health care. That is why we have to be very tentative and ensure people have be routed through NHS Direct tools they can use."

¥THE INDEPENDENT More readers, more awards



The Independent has won two major awards in the prestigious What the Papers Say awards, announced

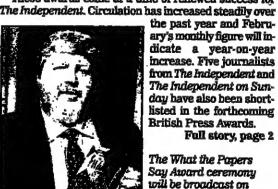
Simon Kelner, Editor of The Independent, was named Editor of the Year by a panel of media experts. (Kelner is pictured above receiving his award from Gerald Kaufman.) David McKittrick, the newspaper's Ireland correspondent. was named Correspondent of the Year.

In announcing the awards, the judges said of Kelner's achievements: "The paper suddenly recovered itself, starting to look and read much more like the publication which had initially enjoyed such terrific success after its launch in 1986.

"He stabilised the paper's circulation figures, and other journalists have greatly admired the way he so swiftly stopped the rot."

Northern Ireland was back in the headlines in 1998, said the judges, for the right and the wrong reasons. They added:
We felt nothing could be more appropriate in the year of
the peace agreement than that the Correspondent of the
Year award should go to Ireland correspondent David Mc-Kittrick - a second award winner for The Independent." McKittrick (below) has covered Irish affairs for 26 years

and this is his fourth major award. These awards come at a time of renewed success for



the past year and February's monthly figure will indicate a year-on-year increase. Five journalists from The Independent and The Independent on Sunday have also been shortlisted in the forthcoming British Press Awards.

The What the Papers Say Award ceremony will be broadcast on BBC2 tonight at 7.35pm

Police damned by American firm may race inspection

hours a day. Instead of running

RACE RELATIONS reforms are By JASON BENNETTO REE cans per se throughout the country and ethnic minority officers are leagues, a damning report by government inspectors has found. '-

A survey of all 43 forces in England and Wales has dis-Metropolitan Police is among them - have made no progress in improving race relations.

The study by the Inspectorate of Constabulary, to be published on Monday, will say that little improvement has been made in tackling racism since they last carried out a national inspection.

The report, which follows a . continuing to leave because of detailed inspection last October harassment by white col- of 15 forces in England and Wales, comes five days after the publication of the watershed inquiry into the Stephen Lawrence murder and will highlight the gulf between anticovered that all but five - the racist policy statements and the reality of everyday policing.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, will tell chief constables on Monday that the lack of progress is unacceptable and change must be introduced

grammes. It says the behaviour of some officers continues to be racist and unacceptable.

For the first time the Inspectorate has produced a table of the worst and best performing forces in terms of race The 43 forces in England and Wales were asked 15 questions

about their anti-racism initiatives and policies. The Independent understands that the only forces considered to be making progress are the Metropolitan Police - condemned by the Lawrence report for its institutional racism" - South Wales, West Yorkshire, Bedfordshire and Leicestershire.

But SFX is understood to be considering making an offer before Wembley's extraordinary

AN AMERICAN company is be- By NICK HARRIS

lieved to be in the running to buy Wembley Stadium, the eneral meeting on 11 March, which was due to rubber-stamp home of English football SFX Entertainments, a New Yorkthe FA-backed bid. based firm specialising in the management of big venues and

bid to buy Wemblev

SFX, which has subsidiaries world-wide, is looking to expand its operations in Europe. One of its subsidiaries manages the basketball player Michael Jor/ dan and another manages the top names in English sport including Michael Owen.

Under the FA's dea! Wemb-ley would be sold to the English National Stadium Development Company (ENSEC), a joint venture between the FA and Sports Council, for £103m. The deal is other bidders come forward.

which had a bid for Wernbley rejected in January esterding said it also intended mantaining its interest of the venue.

A Wembey plc spokesman said "ye re very confident the ENSO" deal will go through and it's our understanding that our largest shareholders are backing it." Within the past few days, however, it has emerged that three of Wembley plc's independent directors have been lobbying shareholders to reject the ENSDC bid and

consider other options. Should the ENSDC deal fall through, the FA may be forced supported by Lottery funding.

But it could be put on hold if to build a centrepiece for its 2006 World Cup bid.

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The report is expected to say that "too many forces" are Informants' fears, page 4

INSIDE THIS SECTION Farming fury German proposals to cut farming subsidies put EU in crisis

Home P2 Archer faces charges James Archer may face charges over share deals

Remaking Rwanda Some 600,000 Hutus have been relocated Foreign P15

School under siege Fears grow for Russian children being taught by religious radicals

Share buyback Alliance & Leicester to buy back £740m shares Business P19

Greg Rusedski served 20 aces to beat Sweden's Sport P32

INSIDE THE REVIEW David McKittrick Why Ian Paisley does have a role to play in the Irish peace process

Ann Treneman profiles the queen of fashion

Klaus Maria Brandaue In a revealing interview, Austria's leading actor talks to Daniel Rosenthal Arts P12

The week in review What the critics made of this week's big events Arts P13



THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

The single most annoying thing women ever say is: 'All men are bastards'. Women that utter this phrase have no comprehension that men are human and have all those funny, nervous feelings about love that women do

Annalisa Barbieri on why women annoy her



annil)al'

m Ace:

ps. 10117

THE BEST-WRITTEN SUNDAY PAPER IN BRITAIN, FEATURING AN WILSON, ALAIN DE BOTTON, SIMON SINGH, DAVID THOMSON, JEREMY CLARKE, MICHAEL FOOT, JOAN SMITH, GILBERT ADAIR, MICHAEL BYWATER, JOHN MORTIMER AND WALLACE ARNOLD

EU farm reforms in total disarray

EUROPE'S CONTROVERSIAL BY STEPHEN CASTLE plans to slash billions of pounds from its annual spending and usher in a new wave of agricultural reform were in disarray last night as a stand-off among EU leaders left the reform process deadlocked.

After a full day the 15 member states appeared even fur-Franco-German split threatened a full-scale crisis ahead of next month's deadline for agreement of reforms. Gerhard Schröder, the Ger-

man Chancellor, told fellow premiers that the latest compromise plans, designed to freeze the EU's £30.7bn farm spending, were "unacceptable" because they watered down proposals to "stabilise" farm spending for 2000 to 2006.

French president, Jacques Chirac, outlined a different set of objections – repeating French that Paris refused to endorse yesterday. Mr Chirac suggested a fresh start because the tating EU presidency, argued

in Königswinter, near Bonn

Jacques Santer, president of the European Commission, said he "wouldn't want to talk of a collapse". But one diplomat said: "The best possible outcome might be a crisis because that at least would concentrate minds."

Tony Blair said the UK's negotiable". Mr Chirac said: 'We cannot avoid a re-examination of the British rebate."

Talks broke up early on Friday without agreement when a compromise package was opposed by France, despite a concession over cuts in milk quotas – a reform opposed by France's Agriculture Minister. Jean Glavany

Amid the worst Franco-German dispute for years, the Ministers discussed a 3 per cent annual reduction in all EU cent annual reduction in direct



proposal

The Losers

£30.7bn a year - half the EU's spending - be-tween 2000 and 2006

Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark and the UK are in the vanguard. They daim to have efficient farmers

France, Ireland and "Clubfreeze - not always on fi-nancial lines. Any country where farmers tend to take

and pay much more into

the EU than they get out.

In line with free market. Beef, cereals, milk could come down by 30%

Big "factory" farmers in Britain, France, eastern Germany, Denmark, Holland where prices are not rigged.

the Scottish highlands, Ire-land and Spain. France is

payments will go up to compensate for outs in guar-

trum of farmers. Small farmers will be forced to increase production to make up loss-

backed by the UK and other countries that gain

opponent, arguing that this is the beginning of the end of the 37-year-old policy. Ireland is also alarmed, for

Hill farmers, smallholders and southern producers will not be shedding tears. Despite previous reforms.

the richest 4 per cent of land-owners still pocket 80 per cent of CAP cash One of the few reforms opposed by Britain, this would cut payments to

anyone receiving more than £100,000 per annum.

Current plans would end curbs on grain produc-tion and are backed by countries with big cereal producers such as the UK, Sweden, Denmark, Holland Governments in Germany,

set-aside, helping clear way for cereal farmers to return to free market

Austria, Greece, Ireland and Portugal favour keeping a minimum guaranteed price coupled with a small

direct farm subsidies; a 3 per EU arable crop subsidies and hostility to key elements of a a 1 per cent annual reduction compromise reform package in all other EU direct farm Germany, which holds the ro- for real reform and a less costly

costs of the farm package over the years 2000-2006. Mr Blair sided with Mr Schröder over farm reforms, arguing that heads of government "have to get a very clear message to farm ministers about the need

agricultural package".

was sent by the leaders to the

France has agreed to the principle that most direct payments to farmers should be cut year on year. In exchange it

to compete in a free market. And it is determined to op-

pose co-financing - proposal under which 25 per cent of agriculture spending would come from national, rather than EU, coffers.

The so-called Agenda 2000 the EU's seven million farmers. add 9bn euros (66.2bn) to the minister, Dick Benschop, dairy sector as it believes its ration for the EU's attempt to

eastern Europe.

Agriculture swallows up about half of the EU's spending and leaders accept that the system has to be reformed before countries such as Poland, which has a big and inefficient agricultural sector, can be are bad is a caricature".

35bn euro aid for poorer regions to ensure they do not lose when hard-hit eastern Europeans join. Mr Schröder said "solidarity is not a one-way street". and added that to say "spenders are good and savers

Spain, Portugal and Greece initiative over duty free, which the measure through.

want increases in the EU's summer despite the objections of the German. French and British. The German Chancellor suggested VAT be imposed on the agreed date, but imposition of excise duty be delayed for two-and-a-half years. However, there was no sign of

Independent' wins Editor and Correspondent of year awards

THE EDITOR of The Independent, Simon Kelner, won the Editor of the Year award at the annual What the Papers Say awards in London yesterday. Mr Kelner, who was made

Media Editor

who presented BBC2's What the Papers Say programme during its last series. editor of the paper last May, was nominated by the journalists

The judges said: "He stabilised the paper's circulation

figures; other journalists have greatly admired the way he so swiftly stopped the rot. They nominated him in great num-

bers and the judges agreed." The Independent also took the Correspondent of the Year prize for the work of the Ireland

LIGHTING UP

Northern Ireland than in the ar-

ticles of The Independent's David McKittrick'. Other awards included a

EXTREMES

correspondent. David Mc- new category of Front Page of award went to Libby Purves of Kittrick. The judges said: the Year, which was won by The the Times. The Peter Black "Nowhere could you find a bet- Sun, for its headline, after the ter route map of the troubles of arrest of the singer George Michael in a Los Angeles public lavatory, which said: "Zip me

up before you go go". The Columnist of the Year

award for writing on broadcasting went to the Daily Mail's Jaci Stephen. The judges said she was such a genuine enthusiast for her subject and could be so firmly. "She has charm with teeth."

The Guardian's Nick Davies won Scoop of the Year for its on life in hidden Britain", inof England. The paper also today on BBC2.

won Journalist of the Year for story about Peter Mandelson's his "frankly terrifying reports home loan arrangement with Geoffrey Robinson.

cluded stories on the web of Hosted by Clive Anderson, paedophiles who abused chil- the What The Papers Say dren in institutions in the north awards will be shown at 7.35pm

BRITAIN TODAY Noon today

FORECAST

General situation: The south-eastern corner of England will begin cloudy with partity rain, almough it will steadily improve to leave a brighter, fresher efference. The rest of England and Wales will have sumy spells and blustery showers, the showers mainly in the viest. Northern Ireland and western Scotland will be very windy seth time! sumy spells and heavy showers, some of the showers may be thundery and switty over hills and mountains. Eastern Scotland will have sumy

Channel is, SE & Cont S England, London, E Anglia, E Midlands: A cloudy stort with patchy rain. Brighter but fresher this afternoon, A moderate south-we erly wind. Max temp 9-1 (C (48-52F).

E & NE England: Decent sunny spells but feeling cold in the wind and a few showlers are likely. A fresh south-westerly wind, Mar temp 6-8C (43-46F). SE Scotland, Edinburgh: Occasional summy breaks, but rather windy with one or two showers breaking out. A fresh south-mesterly wind. Mair temp 5-70 (41-45F) NE Scotland, Aberdeen: The odd shower and rather windy but some sunny spells possible. A fresh to strong south-mesterly wind, Max temp 5-70 (41-45P). NW & SW Scotland, Glasgow, N & W Islam: Frequent heavy showers, some of them thundery with half and some sleet and show in the highlands. A fresh to strong south-westerly wind. Max temp 3-6C (37-43F).

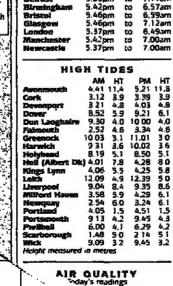
N Iraland: Windy with surrry spells and showers, the showers most frequent in the north and west. A fresh to strong south-westerly wind. Max temp 6-8C (43-46F) OUTLOOK

Rain will spread to most areas romorrow, preceded by snow in the highlands and accompanied by strong winds. The far north of Scotland will remain cold with wintry showers, but other areas will be midd. More rain will break out overnight and during Monday but it will stay very mild.

London: A12 Green Man Roundabout.
Leytonstone Major roadworks on new M11
krk road Until 31st Decamber.
Cembridgeshire A10 between Foxon and
M11 Resurfacing and bridge makennance
volh, at Shaproth M8, Until 28th February.
Bristol: M5 J18-19. Major Roadworks on
Accompact: Bridge, Until 23rd June 2001.
Winnvictshire: M42 Between J10 Tamworth
services and J8 Sutton Coldfield. Posstworks
and contradicts, Until 23rd April and contraficer, Until 23rd April Gretter Manchester: A57. Namow lames Manchester-bound, dub to Metholink con-struction work, Until 28th February.

South Yorkshire; M1 Between J34 Tinsley Viaduct (A6109) & J34 Tinsley Viaduct (A6178). Shefield, Carriageway reduced to 2 lanes southbourn. Unal 21st November 2000 Gloucestershire: A40 Lansdown Rd. Cheltenham Closed due to roadworks ribound. Diversors in place, Until 1st June Sutfolk: A14 Fefostone Docks. Postskorks until 28th February.

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SUN & MOON Sun rises: 06.51 Sun sets: 17.37

WEATHERLINE for the latest forecasts day 0891 5009 followed by the two digits for your area Source. The Met. Office. Calk charged at



Coldest (day): Scornoviay 6C (43P; Wettest: Machinarush 0.33 ms unniest: Banff, Aberde For 24hrs to 2pm Friday

5050506635607468350 2.0 0.3 6.9 0.3 0.3 0.3 49 54 48 46 43 52 0 0 7 10 24 hours to 6pq (GMT) Toursday Information by rq WeatherCentre

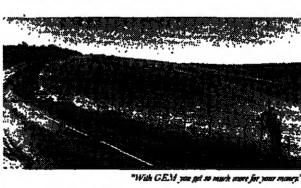
RAIN OR SHINE ... BAD WEATHER is playing its

part in the drugs war. Officials

in Burma, one of the world's main opium producers, revealed that drought is this year likely to halve the drug's source - the poppy. Burma has 150,000 acres of poppy fields producing 680 tonnes of opium a year, but the Golden Triangle of Burma, Laos and Thailand has not seen enough rain to deliver the usual big yields.



1932



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European Cover

Vear and

Hannibal's army flees the 'white hell' of the Alps, vowing never to return again

BEDRAGGLED LIKE Hannibal's army after its ill-fated trek through the Alps, holidaymakers poured out of the white hell of the Paznaun valley yesterday, many vowing never to return. The train out of Landeck; the beachhead of the international airlift, was packed with sur-vivors from Galtur and Valzur, the two resorts devastated by avalanches earlier in the week. Psychologists roamed the carriages, offering quick-fix therapy - this is, after all, Sigmund Freud's homeland.

The patients were easily identifiable. They were the ones clutching sports bags stuffed to the rims; the only piece of lug-gage allowed on to the helicopters that flew them to safety.

They all had a wild stare, and were enveloped in over-powering body odour. While their mobile telephones functioned even after the disaster, the victims had been robbed of simpler fa-cilities of modern civilisation. They could converse with the other side of the globe, but were unable to take a wash. The army barracks that received them had not been kitted out

with showers for 6,000 people.

And the people of Galtur had something else in common. Their initial fright had turned into anger, with one question on

we told of the dangers?" Galtūr's only escape route, the road through the narrow gorge leading to Landeck, had been blocked a week ago. Only the foolhardy went skiing, and as the snowdrifts closed in, even those eventually decided

Cooped up in their chalets, the guests tried to find indoor diversions, patiently waiting for the end of their incarceration. It was all a bit inconvenient, but there was no inking of anyone's life being in peril.

BY IMPE KARACS in Landeck and Innsbruck

On the contrary. "On Monday afternoon there was a meeting with the people from the local avalanche committee," recalls Stan Berings, a Dutch survivor of Galtur. "They said to us, There is no problem. No danger at all. There hasn't been an avalanche here for hundreds of years'. There was only a little information available.

We were watching TV and someone said: 'Hey, look, they're saying there is a level five avalanche warning for Galtur." Level five is the highest. Still, the experts reassured the tourists that Galtur was immune.

The next day, at 4pm, the lethal cloud of powdery snow struck at 150 miles an hour. Those caught out in the streets died instantly. The avalanche cleared a path 100 metres wide through the resort, tossing buildings aside like so many doll's houses. There was simnly no escape.

Even those who had played whose building stood in the way of the elements, and on what floor they were staying.

told. The sirens sounded after what many assumed had been an explosion. By yesterday, 37 bodies had been recovered after the avalanches and one girl was still missing.

A ski-lift operator from Galtur confirms that the prolessionals had been aware of the possibility of disaster and were surprised by the avalanche committee's assessment "I simply do not understand why like dynamite up there, People shouldn't play with it."

In Valzur, a smaller resort down the valley, the tourists had at least been forewarned by the fate of neighbouring Galtur. The avalanche committee could therefore chart the di-

rection of the coming disaster.
"We had already had two smaller avalanches," says Styn Carron, a Belgian holidaymaker. "We were told which part of the village was in danger, and which relatively safe. This turned out to be the case."

On Wednesday afternoon Mr Carron was in the safer zone protected to some extent by trees. "I was watching TV, heard a bang and the TV set fell down." Trapped in his room, he calmly packed his belongings and hunkered down for the night. At daybreak the helicopters arrived.

Yet despite the warning, seven people perished in Valzur, in the area officially described as "less safe". They had chosen to stay there on that fatal afternoon.

The people of Landeck, who safe by staying indoors were live off tourism, have been apvulnerable. It was pot luck palled with the way they feel tourists have been deliberately put at risk.

The exceptional weather The path of the unpredicted had been forecast more than the road to Galtur should have then been closed and preparations made for a mass evacuation Instead. the local authorities made a businessfriendly decision. The road stayed open, until buried by the Tyrol in nearly 50 years.

The responsibility for all those lost lives should not, though, be attributed entirely to Tyrolese greed. The local econthey underestimated the dan-ger," said the man, asking that his name be withheld. "It was Tourists pampered by their



Rescue workers at army barracks in the Tyrolean town of Landeck yesterday after returning from Galtür Reuters

Skiing risks 'still high'

By RHIANNON BATTEN

OFFICIALS SAID vesterday that the threat of further avalanches in the Austrian Alps remains high through the weekend, with above-freezing temperatures warming the masses of snow hanging on

Vanessa Haines, information services manager at the Ski Club of Great Britain, says people should travel as planned but expect restricted skiing in certain areas. Because avalanche risks are still high skiers should contact their tour operator to check accessibility to their intended resort. If disruptions are likely, holidaymakers will have been contacted by their tour operator, according to Jackie Gib-son of the Association of British Travel Agents. Ms Gibson said that of the 30 or so companies she spoke to yesterday, "without exception, where the booked resort is inaccessible, companies are offering holidays in alternative resorts or a full refund".

The main areas still experiencing problems are St Anton, Ischgl, Lech and Zürs in Austria and the Jungfrau region of Switzerland. The three main resorts, Mürren, Wengen and Grindelwald, bore the brunt of the recent bad weather and are still cut off. Where the lifts and runs are open the skiing is said to be fantastic.

To put the disruption into perspective, Ms Gibson stressed that "out of 800 resorts in Austria, only 15 are experiencing problems, and well over 90 per cent are running as normal". Most other European ski destinations were getting back to normal, she added.

However, with more snow forecast for the middle of next week, the avalanche risk is still high and Ms Haines advises anyone considering off-piste skiing to hire an avalanche transceiver and take a qualified mountain guide with them. Transceivers can be hired for a week from the Ski Club of Great Britain (0181 410 2000) - £10

Boy survived under snow because of his small size

By JEREMY LAURANCE **Health Editor**

THE FOUR-YEAR-OLD boy who is being called the "miracle of Valzur" almost certainly survived being buried by an avalanche in the Austrian Alps because his body was cast into a state of "suspended animation" by the freezing conditions, an expert said yesterday.

His small size will have helped him survive the 100 minutes he spent buried alive by promoting the rapid cooling that is essential to avoid suffocation. Doctors say few people can last more than 15 minutes beneath the snow because of the lack of oxygen. As the body cools, its need for oxygen falls and if that happens fast enough the victim can avoid suffication. Children have a better chance of survival than adults because they have a greater surface area relative to their weight and so lose heat quicker

The boy was found after deep layer of snow that swept into the village of Valzur on Wednesday. Rescuers at first thought he was dead because he appeared not to be breathing and they were unable to find a pulse. But after strenuous attempts to resuscitate him, he began to show signs of life.

HOW CHILD CAME BACK FROM THE 'DEAD'



Dr Michael Tipton, a spe-cialist in thermal physiology at the University of Portsmouth, said the cold would have cast the boy's body into a state of suspended animation which would be almost indistinguishable from death. "You see this when people

almost two hours under the are rescued from the bottom of a freezing river after an hour when you would normally expect them to drown in minutes. It is very easy to mistake the profoundly hypothermic for

Their hearts beat very slowly, their breathing is very low, their pupils are fixed and

dilated and their tendon reflexes are absent."

Once dug out of the snow, the boy was wrapped in thermal blankets and flown by helicopter down the valley to Galitir before being transferred to hospital at Zams, where he was still recovering yesterday. Doctors working in casualty

departments say that a body is not fully dead until it is warm and dead. As rapid cooling of a living human takes place, the body shuts down because the cells require less oxygen. The cooling of the brain stem also has a direct effect suppressing the organs' activity.

Dr Tipton, who is also head of the environmental medicine unit at the Institute of Naval Medicine, said: "For a person who falls into freezing water the question is whether the cooling effect occurs quickly enough so that the oxygen conservation effect on the body prevents suffocation. If you cool quickly the oxygen you already have or board will last a lot longer.

mindane urban lives come

here seeking a light work-out

and a taste of danger. If the Tyrol

shuts down, they will go looking

But Tyrol, awaiting the worst

for action somewhere else.

white blanket begins to melt

and slips towards the chalets in

The trains that arrived at Landeck yesterday morning

people dressed in designer

anoraks, armed with virgin

skis. They had heard of the won-

derful powder snow of the Paz-

naun valley, and cannot wait to

try out their new gear. Let no-

body say that they have not

the valleys, is open for busines

throughout the region.

"Some adults have survived in this way but those that fare best tend to be children, who cool rapidly due to their greater surface area to weight ratio. I similar happened in this case."

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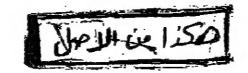
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Lawrence inquiry: Home Office moves quickly to limit damage as Straw faces call for resignation

Informants will be given safe houses

POLICE INFORMANTS who may be at risk after being identified in the Lawrence report could be given "safe" houses or help with moving to new addresses, the Home Office said yesterday as ministers came under fierce attack for the series of blunders in the aftermath of the inquiry.

There was anger and dismay among residents, the police and Labour and Tory MPs at the disclosure of the names and addresses of people who had tipped off the police about the key suspects for the killing, in the appendix to the report of the Lawrence inquiry.

The Home Secretary was not in the Commons yesterday to face calls for his resignation, being out of the country on a "long-standing personal engagement". But the Home Office continued to shrug off the blame for the blunder that led to recriminations between the police forces involved in the investigation.

A spokesman for Kent police fused to trust the Metropolitan Police - spoke of the anger within his force at what had hap-

trust they put in us torpedoed by some other organisation makes us extremely angry," he said.

It emerged that Mr Straw is unlikely to have read the appendix. "Get real," said a government source. But the Tories last night claimed a senior civil servant had been seconded from the Home Office to act as inquiry secretary and should have known about the blunder before the report was released.

MPs and police warned that it would also severely undermine the recent appeal by Mr Straw for the public to help the police and end the "walk on by" society. One Labour MP added that it might stop people com-ing forward with information about the recent killing of a young black man in the Lewisham area of south London, not far from where Stephen Lawrence was killed.

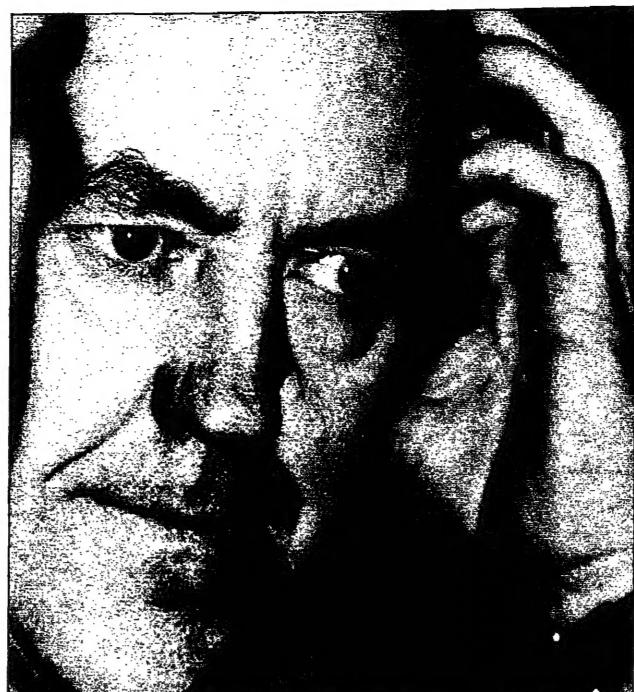
The Metropolitan Police be--whose officers obtained state- lieve a number of those who ments from people who re- gave information to police investigating the Lawrence murder could be at risk because they have been identified. Paul Boateng, a Home Office minis-

ter, said "appropriate protection measures" had been put in place. "The Home Office stands ready to offer any assistance which the police or the local authority believe necessary," he ssured MPs.

Home Office officials confirmed that residents in the Eltham area, where Stephen was killed, would be offered temporary "safe" houses or help to sell up and move to another part of London. "They will be offered relocation, if necessary," said a Home Office source.

Mr Boateng told the Commons that the publication of the names was a "serious and regrettable error" but said the inquiry team under Sir William Macpherson of Cluny had accepted "full responsibility". In one sense, the Home Office was only the "printing shop" for the inquiry, Mr Boateng said. "This is not a matter that can be laid at the door of the Home Office."

Roger Gale, Tory MP for Thanet North, said Mr Straw should have offered his resignation. But Mr Boateng urged MPs not to allow "this error to sidetrack us in our determination to carry forward the rec-



ommendations in this report". Sir Paul Condon scratches his head during the Operation Bumblebee roadshow

Murder witness to sue over memorial arrest

A PROTECTED witness in the By KATHY MARKS Stephen Lawrence case is to sue the Metropolitan Police Eltham, south-east London. over an incident last year in which he was arrested on suspicion of vandalising Stephen's

known only as Witness B, will issue a writ next week seeking "substantial" damages for false

where Stephen was murdered. has been vandalised several times, most recently on Wednesday night, when white Lawyers for the young man, paint was daubed on it hours after the release of the public inquiry report into the police investigation of Stephen's death.

hammer attack on the plaque. The hammer was left at the scene, and the incident was captured by a surveillance camera, which has since been replaced by a dummy

Police later arrested Stuart Hollingdale, 32, from Penge, who was jailed for two and a half months in June. Police found literature from extreme right-

Mark Bowen, said yesterday that the writ would allege that there had been no grounds for arrest. "No reasonable person could say that the person in the video matches my client," he said. "The only similarity is that both are white.

"My client cannot understand why, at a time when he

ness." Witness B made a statement in November 1993, seven months after Stephen was killed, in which he said that he had seen Neil Acourt and David Norris, two of the five suspects, near the scene at the time of the murder. He said he

had been on a passing bus. However, he later said that

pick out Norris at an identification parade. Mr Bowen said that Witness B was "devastated" by the inquiry report's apparent acceptance of the police's assertion that he was "Walter Mitty" character and a habitual liar. "He accepts

that his evidence was not of the . highest quality, but he did his

been in employment, he has had to move from area to area, and he has had threats to his life. He wishes that he had never got involved."

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, and Stephen's parents Neville and Doreen, visited the memorial plaque on Thursday

Police dig for woman's body

By JASON BENNETTO Crime Correspondent

POLICE INVESTIGATING the woman were last night digging up the back garden of the home of her former husband, a millionaire architect.

Argentinean-born Gracia Morton was last seen 15 months ago when she left her flat in west London to take her four-year-old daughter to school Mrs Morton 40, then visited her estranged husband, Jonathan Morton, who lives in nearby St Ann's Road. Holland Park.

Police yesterday arrested a man in connection with the disappearance. About 20 officers went to Mr Morton's £400,000 three-storey terraces house yesterday morning. Police later put a blue tarpaulin over the back garden and started digging.

The home had been searched before in November 1997, with a cottage Mr Morton owned in

Mrs Morton, a former professional violinist, came to England 11 years before her disappearance. She went missing in November 1997. Closed circuit television pictures showed her leaving her flat to take her daughter to nursery

Mrs Morton was in the middle of divorce proceedings when she went missing and a large amount of money remained untouched in her bank account.

Her husband told detectives that on the day of her disap-pearance she had stayed for an hour at his home, then left. Her car was later found

Concern grew after the parttime charity worker failed to meet her brother-in-law and Mr Morton the following evening, and her relatives alerted the police. There was no indication at her flat that she had intended leaving.

Her sister, Constanza Lezama, said last year: "There is no reason to believe she committed suicide, she loved her daughter too much.

"We do not know what hap-

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Yesterday we asked "if you won £1 million on the lottery how much would you give to charity?" 87% of all respondents would give some of their windfall to charity and 20% would give more than £100,000.

To join in please see the opposite page



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TV locations to star in UK tourism push

the fairytale success story of the Crown Hotel at Amersham after the release of the equally fairytale film, Four Weddings and a Funeral.

More specifically they know about the Elizabeth I Suite, next to the courtyard, where Hugh Grant and Andie Mc-Dowell spent a night of passion in the four-poster bed.

Things at the Buckinghamshire hotel have never been the same since.

"Ever since the film we have en inundated with couples who want to spend the night in that room. The suite is currently booked up for the rest of the year," the rooms manager, Catherine Rice, said yester-

From Carnforth Station in Lancashire, where Trevor Howard and Celia Johnson looked wistful in Brief Encounter, to Sieddale Hall near Penrith where the cast of Withnail and I camped it up, appearing in a film can have a tremendous effect on a location's wider appeal.

Yesterday the Government recognised the importance of such stardom when it revealed a 15-point plan to boost Britain's tourism industry. Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture announced that, as part of a "Tomorrow's Tourism" initiative, locations and attractions linked to films and television series will receive

rest

special government backing. The list of locations that have become famous for featuring as fictitious places is almost endless. Goathland in North Yorkshire is perhaps more glamorously known as the home of TV series Heartbeat. while the tiny Scottish village of Pennan was the setting for Bill

Forsyth's 1983 film Local Hero. Meanwhile, the cob at Lyme Regis played itself in The French Lieutenant's Woman, and no one made any attempt to disguise Sheffield in The Full Monty. Grimethorpe near

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

Barnsley starred as Grimley in the film Brassed Off, the stars of which - including Ewan Me-Gregor - remain in touch with the community.

"They were great and the film created a lot of interest," said Andy Kershaw, a coordinator at the town's local

resource centre. Jo Lesley, spokeswoman for the British Tourist Authority (BTA) said yesterday: "An awful lot of overseas visitors only



Chris Smith: Visitors give us high marks'

learn about Britain through what they see in films and on

"At our calls centre in New York last year we took 400,000 calls. The second most popular location - after England - was Scotland and more than a third of those callers said they wanted to visit because they had seen either Rob Roy or Brave-

Saltram House in Devon. the Dashwood home in Sense and Sensibility, has seen a 57 per cent rise in visitors since the film was released in 1995 and Osborne House on the Isle of Wight, used in Mrs Brown, has seen a 25 per cent increase since the film came out.

London has seen a surge of interest after its inspiration for the bookshop in the yet to be released film Notting Hill, also starring Hugh Grant.

We have had lots of people coming in here asking about the film," said the manager, Jim Blackburn. "I expect once the film is released there will be a lot more. We are not going to be

shy about it." Tourism is Britain's single biggest invisible export and last year directly earned the country £12.7bn with a total value to the economy of more than £50bp. In all 25.7 million people visited from overseas. The BTA hopes that by next year the numbers will have risen to 27.5 million, bringing in directly a total of £14.7hn.

As part of this drive Mr Smith announced yesterday the setting up of a new body that will co-ordinate the re-gional authorities. These will be supported by the Government, especially in the regeneration of traditional resorts that have declined as a result of cheap nolidays abroad.

Mr Smith said: "Tourism is one of our most important industries. It has the potential to create even more jobs, generate more wealth and help rejuvenate rundown areas. To maximise tourism's contribution to the economy and to our vision for Britain we need to work with the industry to an agreed plan."

Other initiatives will include a unified grading system for accommodation, designed to make it easier for visitors to choose where to stay as well as promoting better standards ithin the hotel trade.

Mr Smith said: "Visitors to Britain give us high marks for our heritage but not so high marks for the quality and value for money of accommodation."

The grading will award stars and be partly administered by the AA and RAC, who run their own hotel awards schemes.



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3. Thinking about your attitudes to work and fulfilment, indicate the extent to which you agree or

disagree with the following statements on a scale of 1 to 5 (where 1 is disagree strongly

1 2 3 4 5 1 2 3 4 5 1 2 3 4 5 I would continue to work even if I won the lotter,

1 2 3 4 5 i often dream of boing something completely different with my life.

4. Thinking about your attitudes towards independence, indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements on a scale of 1 to 5 disagree strongly and 5 agree strongly

1 2 3 4 5 When you stan a family you lose your independence

1 2 3 4 5 I would be just as happy living on my own, as in a family

5. Do you feel fulfilled in your life?

Yes No. Don't know

6. Do you generally feel more fulfilled now than you did ten years ago?

Yes No Don't know 7. What is the main thing that prevents you feeling fulfilled?

8. Do you think your job is making a useful contribution to society?

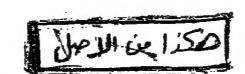
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Archer's son faces share-deal charge

JAMES ARCHER, son of the BY STEVE BOGGAN Conservative peer and a leading light in the notorious "Flaming Ferraris" group of City traders, could face criminal charges over allegations of irregular share dealing.

Mr Archer, 24, and two of his colleagues at Credit Suisse First Boston were suspended earlier this week pending investigations into possible manipulation of trades on the Swedish Stock Exchange. Swedish authorities say their financial police and criminal courts could become involved.

The alleged irregularities are thought to involve sharebuying in Stora, a Swedish pulp company, and possible "market ma-

Mats Wilhelmsson, head of market surveillance in Sweden, said: "The sums are not really relevant, but the actual

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that led to one in particular and the value of these trades was around [£500,000]."

He said he could reveal no details of what was alleged to have been wrong with the dealings because of the possibility of prosecutions.

Mr Archer and his suspended colleagues, David Cras-anti, 34, and Adrian Ezra, 31, are in a group of "index arbitrage" traders known as the "Flaming Ferraris" because of their penchant for £14 cocktails of rum, calvados and blue Curacao.

They exploit tiny anomalies between index prices and futures contracts, placing bets of up to £3bn to make worthwhile profits. They - and 13 colleagues spread around London, Hong Kong, America, Europe and Australia – are rumoured to have earned Credit Suisse

last year, sharing a £5m bonus. The group, led by Mr Cras-

anti, a former wrestler and economics graduate from Princeton, works minimum 12hour days under extreme pressure to capitalise on a complex system, using advanced computer programmes to identify the edge that makes a profit. Mr Ezra, a former Indian

squash champion and Harvard graduate, is said to have told a friend: "The beauty of the system is that it's so complicated few people would be able to understand the way we work."

The suspended men and their other London workers, Denis Albert and Conor Camp-bell, have a reputation for high living. Mr Archer is said to earn £250,000 a year and have an arrogant streak

Educated at Eton and Brasenose, Oxford, where he

First Boston (CSFB) £100m studied chemistry, Mr Archer was in the loutish Assassins drinking club at university. His group's nickname came from a cocktail invented by Thai Dang, who owns a Vietnamese restaurant in west London.

Thai Dang said yesterday: "They spend a lot of money and come here regularly, but they always behave impeccably." In The Wharf, a weekly

paper based near CSFB's headquarters, one ex-collegemate journalist described Mr Archer variously as a "decent, kind and clever" man. Another wrote: "Think of

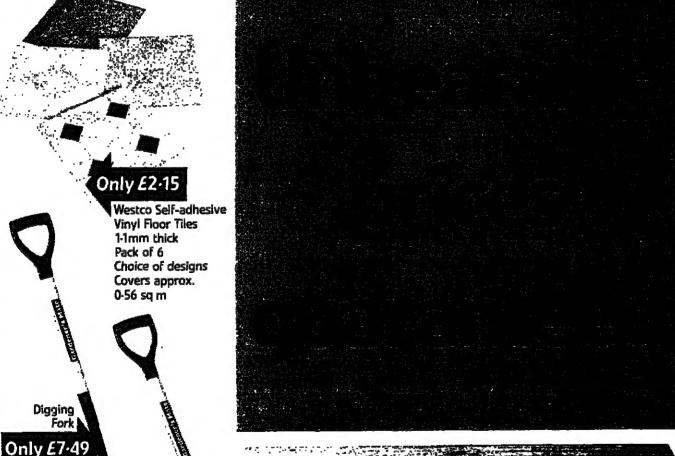
the stereotype of the Oxford undergraduate, and a champagne-swigging Hooray Henry staggers into view. Double it and you're looking at James

Neither Mr Archer nor his father was available for com-



"Flaming Ferraris", young millionaire City traders (from left): Conor Campbell, Adrian Ezra, James Archer, Denis Albert (rear) and team leader David Crasanti outside a London restaurant Julian Simmonds/Sunday Telegraph

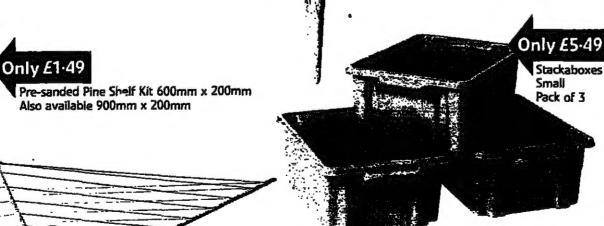
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Butter firm loses court tax action

CUSTOMS AND Excise won a BY STEPHEN HOWARD High Court order yesterday that stops the New Zealand dairy giant Anchor Foods from selling its assets to avoid an alleged £270m import duties bill.

But Customs had to give Mr Justice Neuberger an undertaking to pay damages to Anchor if the dairy company eventually won the action and showed that it had suffered losses. The judge also granted leave to both parties to take his rulings to the Court of Appeal.

Anchor, a wholly-owned UK subsidiary of the New Zealand Dairy Board, wanted to sell off NZDB company in the UK cre-

ated for the purpose. Customs claim this is a gross undervaluation" of Anchor designed to leave behind the import duties debt. Its own accountants have valued Anchor

at £30m to £100m. The judge told Anchor, which is to challenge Customs' demand for import duties at a VAT and Duties Tribunal, to provide more information on its value to Customs, which would then be "duty bound" to tell the accountants it was employing.

If there was any reconsideration of the value of the company, the accountants employed by Customs would also be under

a duty to tell the court. Graeme Milne, the Anchor chairman, said: "We are disappointed with this decision. But the judge left it open for us to challenge the injunction and we are confident about the valuation of the company and are sure the whole matter is a prop-

er transaction on our part." Customs came to the High Court on Thursday seeking the order to freeze Anchor's assets,

which employs 413 people in the UK until the hearings on the import duties are completed. David Pannick QC, for Anchor, had told the judge the company had to sell its assets

so it could "maintain its credibility" with banks and suppliers. Mr Pannick said Mr Milne agreed that his company was selling the business to New Zealand Milk (NZM) because of

the debt claims by Customs. Richard McCombe QC, for Customs, had told the judge: "The company only seems to per cent before tax. How does it not make a profit when it is known to have 30 per cent, by far the largest share, of the UK

dairy produce market." The sale to NZM would leave behind "only the debt owed to Customs".

He added: "The proposed transfer appears to have no commercial purpose other than to rid the business of that debt."

Mr McCombe also questioned whether "a significant part of Anchor's profits are repatriated to New Zealand and not reflected in Anchor's profit figures".

Mr Justice Neuberger said in his ruling he was "sceptical" about the Anchor valuation evidence from the Customs accountants. But he said the injunction would not on the face of it damage Anchor business.

"This is not a case of an arm's length sale by the defen-dant [Anchor] of its assets on the open market. It is the transfer of the whole of AFL to a new party formed for that purpose and owned by the company, which effectively owns AFL."

IN BRIEF

Detectives accused of corruptionTWO SENIOR detectives working with the National Crime
Squad and the National Criminal Intelligence Service have been suspended after allegations of corruption and malpractice. The officers have been accused of operating a telephone fraud racket.

Meningitis alert in Antrim

MORE THAN 200 children and teachers at the All Saints Primary School in Ballymena, Co Antrim, are being vaccinated against meningococcal septicaemia after two pupils were taken to hospital suffering from the disease. The boys, aged four and five, were said to be in a stable condition.

Holyrood invitations yet to go out THE GOVERNMENT insisted foreign dignitaries would be given enough notice of the 1 July opening ceremony of the Scottish Parliament, even though no invitations have yet been sent. Plans are still being drawn up for the event and it is likely the Queen will play a big role.

Police compensation 'inadequate' A FORMER policewoman has received £20,000 after winning her claim of sex discrimination against North Yorkshire Police. Former Chief Inspector Lyn Smith said yesterday: "This only in part compensates for the loss of salary, pension rights and career potential that I have suffered."

Boy, 11, in £10,000 computer scam AN 11-YEAR-OLD Sunderland boy masterminded a £10,000 scam copying computer games, piracy investigators said vesterday. The European Leisure Software Publishers Association said he was the youngest pirate it had caught. Because of his age, no action would be taken. mvestment

TON'S VOISTNA

the murders is that Byro and Lawrence were killed for the same, single reason. Both were black. Eltham's attempts to heal the wounds of the past six ISES COUNT ax action

A black man is killed for the colour of his skin. But here justice got done



ANDREW MARSHALL

IN JASPER

JASPER IS not Eltham, and racism in the United States is a beast born out of a different womb than racism in Britain.

But the sentencing to death in Texas this week of John William King for the murder of James Byrd, and the release of the report into Stephen rence's murder in a south-London street have focused minds on either side of the Atlantic on the racial poison that still lurks below the surface in each society.

years are hopefully - albeit fal-teringly - now beginning. Jasper too, is having to deal with the infamy that a ghastly murder has visited on it.

Ray Parton did a good thing. He put on his gloves one day in January, went out and tore down a barrier that separated the black and white community in the town where he lives. It was a good deed, but doubtless Ray would have got a lot less attention than he did - front age news in the Houston Morning News, a few seconds on network television - if things had not been as they were.

The barrier he was removing was in the cemetery, between the graves of town residents who remained segregated even in death

We are sitting in June Bug's Club and Grill, one of the few drinking holes in a town that is dry, where there are more churches than fast food stores (and there are a dozen of so of them) for 8,000 people.



The 1982 pick-up truck that racists drove, dragging James Byrd, chained by his ankles, to his death last June on a bumpy, winding country road in Jasper. Texas

would be easy to categorise this as a redneck fown, where country is as country does. But that would be wrong, and the past year has shown it.

We don't want this Klan crap," says Mr Parton, with an obviously heartfelt sense of indignation. This ain't a hate community. This is a retirement

James Byrd was dragged to death behind a pick-up truck on a steamy hot night last summer.

session in the next room and branch of a far-right group. Jasper, after the death of flammatory nature. Jasper has are the Sam Rayburn lake mayor, the dignified R C Horn. shotguns above the bar, it For part of the journey, they : James Byrd came the media, dragged his body through a black neighbourhood. God knows what the residents heard, or if they realised what was hurtling down the road behind the truck.

But this is the South, and memories go back some. Many will remember when a lynching was a common event. East Texas still has some pockets of dense racism, towns such as Vidor, where an important Klan group is based, and where a black face is as unfamiliar as a

and with them the Klan, demonstrating in the pretty court square, then the Texas Rangers to keep order, and the New Black Panthers, out to make their point, and the Reverend Jesse Jackson, and baskethall player Dennis Rodman, who paid for the Byrd funeral,

one of three defendants. For the town, it was a disas-

and then the media again, for

the trial of John William King,

cares deeply what people think about it beyond the pine woods.

Historically this is a lumber town, set in the dense pine forests of this corner of the South and established around the rail line after the loggers stopped using the river to float timber down to the coast. But the 18-wheeler trucks that roar up and down between the woods and the paper and pulp factories of Lufkin and Beaumont are no longer the most important driving force in the

The greatest assets Jasper

up the road, one of the best bass fishing lakes in America, and the tourists who come to fish it. Last year's heatwave took its toll on the lake, and the killing threatened to dry up the flow of visitors. And what people said.

from the beginning, was: this

isn't us, and we want people to

The town began a sometimes

painful dialogue about race,

which much of the white pop-

ulation did not think was an

issue, but the black population

knew was. What about the

fence that separated black and

white in the cemetery, they

pointed out?

They did things right in Jasper, from the very beginning. It was already a mixed is about half-black, half-white, with a white sheriff, the rocksolid Billy Rowies, and a black Jasper, as everywhere else in

Parton. "I mean, that just don't comprehend." A killing such as that of

James Byrd or Stephen Lawrence is not just about taking a life: it is about negating a life, erasing it. A lynching is, has always been, about power. Emory University in Georgia

much to do with unexamined assumptions as deliberate decisions. "It'd been there since the civil war, or before," said Mr

keeps a collection of lynching memorabilia, shocking because of its very banality. In each picture you can see the body, swinging in the wind or burning, and the crowds of men, women, children, in their Sunday finery, smiling, not with bloodlust but like partygoers on bonfire night.

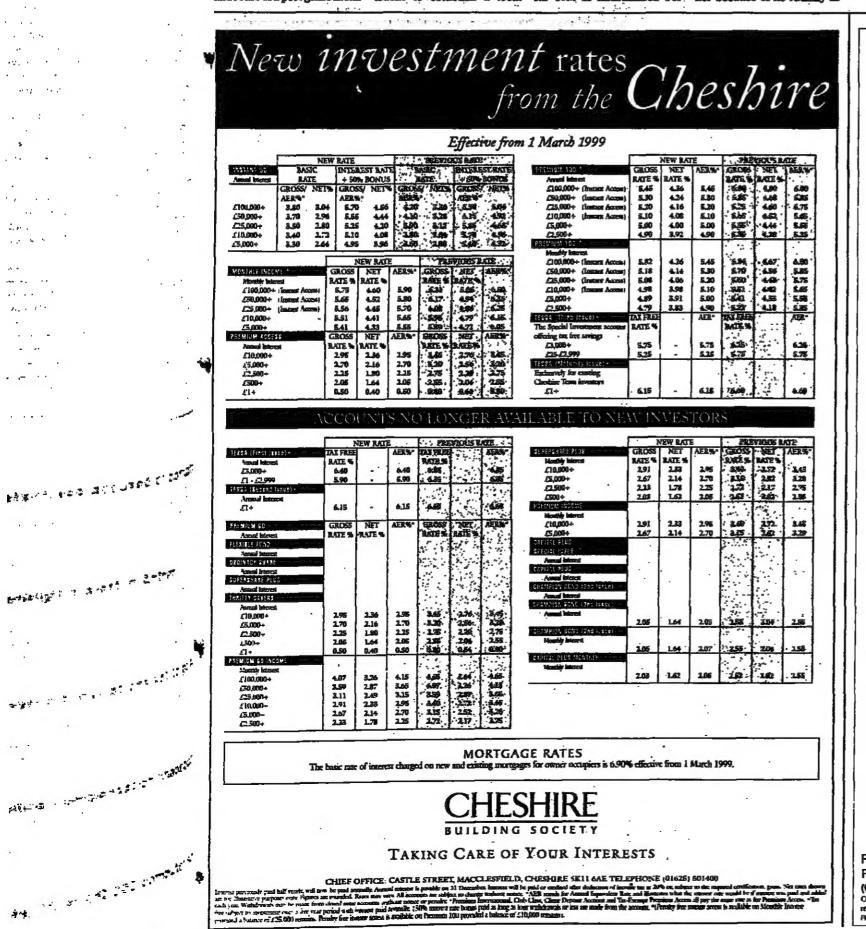
One image is burnt into my mind, an old shot of the main street in the tiny town of Cairo, Illinois - a northern state - with a ceremonial arch, and the notation in scratchy handwriting: "Where they hung the coon". It is like indicating your room on a hotel postcard with a cross; the life that was taken is of no more import, counted for nothing in the first place. The event itself is what mattered, and needs no more explanation.

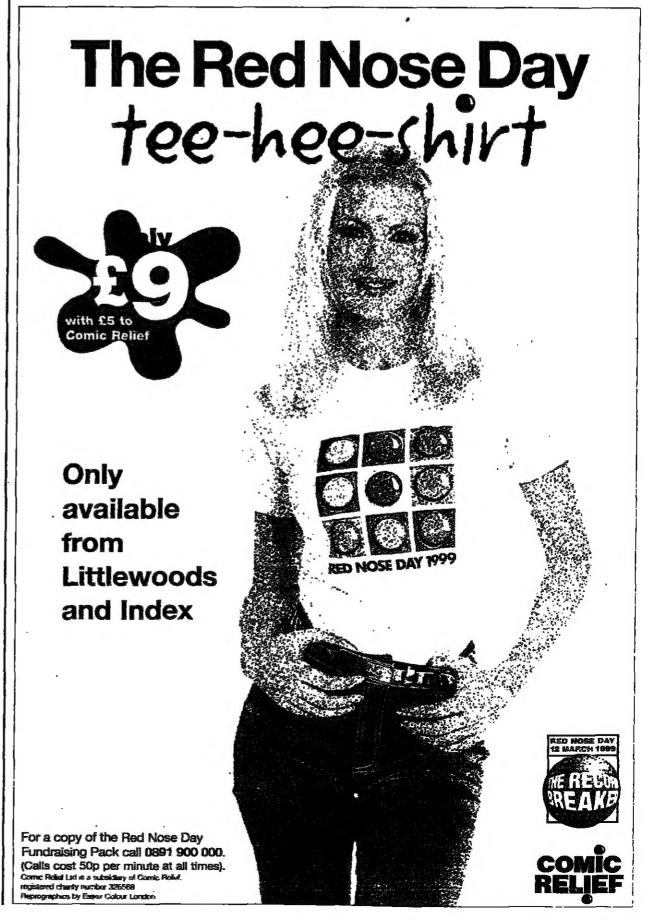
Jasper has tried to atone for that event. It put Mr King on trial, found him guilty, and sentenced him to death. But beyond that, it sought to use the killing not to entrench racial barriers as King and his drunken friends hoped but to change things for the better, just a little. It will never be a liberal's paradise - there are no black faces in June Bug's, and there aren't most nights - but then nowhere in the US is.

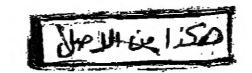
Race is a time bomb in America. Washington, the capital, is divided down the middle between white and black, with 14th Street the notional border.

New York is more mixed, but Ray Parton went out there a white face north of 96th Street last month and helped to tear is still a rarity. The best the down the fence, a wroughtcountry has come up with so far iron affair about three feet off is a form of "peaceful cothe ground that had been there existence." In Jasper, at least the bodies rest together now, as long as anyone can remember. The legacy of race in even if they were apart in life.

Ian Jack is on holiday







Blair hives off Cornwall while embracing the euro

THE PRIME MINISTER took the first risk of his premiership by moving the debate on joining the euro "up a gear".

For Mr Blair nothing in Government policy has officially changed, but the publication of the national changeover plan provides further evidence that he is banking on the "inevitability" argument to assist his now open desire to embrace the single currency.

Focus groups have presumably told him that Europe is not an issue on the doorstep and will not inhibit his prospects at the next general election. Mr Blair's action opens clear

water between himself and William Hague and is calculated to reinforce the split within the Conservative Party. "Operation Hoover", the Labour offensive to win over Tory grandees to its various projects, will now gather pace. Ken Clarke, Michael Heseltine and Sir Edward Heath have every incentive to put the euro ahead

of their support for Mr Hague. If Mr Blair's strategy can further divide the Tories he believes he will negate the risk of losing some support in the polls. But if there are signs that public opinion cannot be moved in favour of the euro he will simply delay a referendum until he is certain he can win.

The reputation for surefootedness of the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, took a severe knock with the publication of ter, Paul Boateng, when he was dragged kicking and screaming to the House yesterday.

No one can deny that, but for Mr Straw, there would have been no inquiry at all. There had been years of resistance from his Tory predecessor, Michael Howard. But to dump the blame on Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, the inquiry chairman, was a tad disingenuous.

All these alarms and excursions threatened to divert attention from the main conclusions of the report. Mr Boateng inflamed an already delicate situation when he de-scribed the Home Office as no more than "printer and pub-lisher" of the report.

THE WEEK IN

WESTMINSTER

MICHAEL BROWN

the Stephen Lawrence report. The bungled attempt to in-

junct the press against the backcloth of deliberate selec-

tive leaking to a journalist by

someone in the Home Office

was compounded by the sub-sequent retraction, after formal

publication, of the appendix list-

ing names of police informants.

nation were unjustified but the

way in which the Home Office

withdrew the offending appen-

dices without volunteering an

immediate statement to Par-

liament gave Roger Gale (C,

Thanet North) an opportunity to

make political capital against Mr

Straw during a point of order.

tetchy, defensive "not me guv"

This eventually led to a

Calls for Mr Straw's resig-

Mr Straw must be praying that he is not let down by any further departmental incompetence and will be anxious that the leak inquiry does not finger any of his junior ministers. If it does, a head will roll.

Tony Lloyd, the junior Foreign Office minister with day-today responsibility for Sierra Leone, was at the centre of the latest row between ministers and the Foreign Affairs Select

Tories on the committee accused him of dishonest, hairsplitting written answers worthy of Bill Clinton when detailing his first sight of its report. This was leaked to him in advance by Ernie Ross (Lab.



Tony Blair may have come out for the euro but still holds all the aces in deciding on a date for a referendum

Dundee West) who resigned have now taken up the cudgel from the committee last week The relationships between minister and officials, and ministers and select committee.

are now at breaking point. For consecutive weeks Mr Cook and his chief fall guy, the Permanent Secretary Sir John Kerr, have been listed to appear together before the committee Both hearings were mysteriously cancelled. The Tories

and called an opposition debate on the issue next Tuesday.

The publication of the latest register of members' interests yields different attitudes towards the goodies they are of-

fered during visits abroad. Nine MPs were guests of the

the expensive jewellery. Did they offend the Amir so that he Bahrain last October: Of these, five declared watches given by the Amir of Bahrain, two of decided not to favour them? Did they say "no thanks"? Or perhaps they have simply had a lapse of memory. In the past whom donated the gifts to charities. Interest surrounds the remaining four: - Ashok Kumar (Lab, Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland). Andrew Love (Lab, Edmon-

ton), Ken Purchase (Lab,

Wolverhampton North East)

and Claire Ward (Lab, Watford)

who made no declarations of

the Amir's gift watches (Baum and Mercier) have been valued well in excess of £1,000.

The most unusual gifts received were a Penny Black stamp from the Electricity Association to Labour's Ronnie Campbell (Blyth Valley) and a BBC teaspoon "bent and signed by Uri Geller" to Ann Widdecombe (Con, Maidstone).

Peter Mandelson finally declared his home loan. But Commons rules only appear to require the registration of the act of borrowing. There was no mention of the loan under Geoffrey Robinson's entry.

Andrew George (Lib Dem, St Ives) has been driven crazy by the inability of the Government to decide which department of state is responsible for answering his concerns about the future of the Cornish language. Mr George has been leading

the campaign to ensure that Cornish is regarded as an officially recognised language. So far the matter has been

considered successively by the Department for Education and Employment; the Home Office; the Department for Culture, Media and Sport; the Department of the Environment, Transport and The Regions; and the Welsh Office.

Mr George finally wrote to the Cabinet Office to determine responsibility before launching an adjournment debate on the issue. But he was amazed to see Joyce Quin preparing to answer the debate. Ms Quin is a Minister of State at the Foreign Office. At a stroke Mr George appears to have struck a blow for Cornish independence, to the chagrin of Scottish and





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MPs back work ban * on abuse suspects

to ban convicted and even suspected paedophiles for life from working with children - despite serious misgivings over civil liberties.

The Protection of Children private member's Bill, sponsored by Debra Shipley, the Labour MP for Stourbridge, would ban all childcare organisations from employing anyone on a national register drawn up by the Government, and require employers to submit the names of those who have harmed children or put them at risk.

This will enable the Government's proposed Criminal Records Bureau to operate a "one-stop shop" so concerned childcare organisations can make speedy checks on volunteers as well as employees. Several Labour back-

benchers fear innocent people could end up on the list and they plan to table amendments once the Bill reaches its committee

Ms Shipley said the legislation would give individuals a right of appeal against inclu-sion. "As things now stand people do not know if they are kept on the lists kept by certain government departments," she said. "They have no right to appeal and cannot amend the entry."

John Hutton, a Health minister, said the Bill would bring protection to the innocent, and indicated that ministers wanted criminal sanctions for organisations that fail to comply with the vetting system.

Ms Shipley told MPs: "No organisation is free from potential abusers and it is only right and proper that parents can expect organisations, in court on March 26.

Political Reporter

whom they have put their trust, to vet their workers, paid or unpaid."

James Paice, the Tory MP for Cambridgeshire South East, cautioned against "malicious reporting" of people to the list and urged rigorous checks because suspects would be considered "guilty until proven

Jackie Ballard, the Liberal Democrat MP for Taunton, said the ability to check the lists needed to be extended to every statutory employer. "If that does not happen, I

can see that those people on the list may see the best hope of going undetected is to work for a private individual, as a nanny, because that individual would not have access to the list." The Bill was given an unop-

posed second reading and

stands a good chance of be-

coming law, having the support of the Department for Education and Employment, the Home Office and the Department of Health. A pensioner charged with sex offences against children and adults dating back to 1972 years was remanded in custody

by a magistrates' court at Reading, Berkshire, yesterday. Sidney Cooke, 71, is charged with 14 assaults, including four rapes, involving eight people men, women and children -

aged between 11 and 23. Cooke, gaunt and with a grey, straggly beard, gave only his name and date of birth.

His lawyer, Graeme Hydari, made no application for bail. Cook is next due to appear in

SNP gets shirty over kilts claim

THE SCOTTISH National Party denied yesterday that it had barred members from wearing Reports claimed SNP spin-

doctors had ordered leading party figures not to wear the traditional Scottish dress at a business dinner last week. The SNP, which uses the slogan "Scotland's Party", wanted to promote a more modern image instead of the so-called Braveheart style, it was claimed.

By NEIL RAFFERTY

A party spokeswoman said: "It is complete nonsense. We do not tell people what to wear." The SNP leader, Alex Salmond, did wear tartan trousers to the fundraising event, but the spokeswoman pointed out "Alex does not tend to wear the kilt anyway." And she added: "We have got candidates who will dress in everything from jeans to business suits to kilts."

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PROMPT



MPs ba

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on abus

Suspect

Catfight on the catwalk and Gucci is losing

By Darius Sanai

IF YOU close your eyes, Domenico De Sole sounds like the softly spoken Don in a De Niro movie. "So let them sue," he says, his quiet tones rising in a whispered crescendo.

Thave nothing to fear. They

Mr De Sole, whose accent is suspended halfway between Lazio and the Lower East Side, is chairman of Gucci. He is small and dapper, with smiling eyes, a ferret-like quickness, and he speaks with considerable determination.

He will need it. Mr De Sole spent most of London Fashion Week away from the hospitality tents, fighting a battle from his Mayfair office against Bernard Arnault, chairman of the French luxury goods giant LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis
Vuitton, who is engaged in an
intricate legal battle with the
small Florentine luxury house.
The latest swipe in a vicious

catfight that ranges one corner of Harvey Nichols against a large segment of Bond Street and Fortnum and Mason's wine department came on Thursday, when Mr Arnault announced he was taking Mr De Sole to court. The result of the case in Amsterdam, where Gucci's shares trade, could be the end of one of the century's more remarkable fashion revivals.



might retire if his rival wins. A close friend said Mr De Sole, who with his protege, the brilliant Texan designer Tom Ford, has transformed Gucci from a lounge-lizard has-been to the ultimate in late-90s chic, "would definitely consider his posi-

Mr Ford, who is ironically a friend of Mr Arnault, is reported not to be happy with the developments, and if he leaves with Mr De Sole, there will effectively be no Gucci left.

The spat began last week when Mr De Sole incurred the fury of Mr Arnault by issuing 20 million new shares to his employees after the French company had secretly bought a similar amount itself and de-

emitting cries of "not fair", LVMH issued a lawsuit against Gucci, claiming the tactic was illegal. One of Mr Arnault's senior advisers said it was like "creating imaginary voters to win an election". He added that some other Gucci shareholders could also sue Mr De Sole.

In his only face-to-face in-terview with the British press this week, Mr De Sole told The Independent why he is using such extreme tactics. "LVMH are suing me, but

the other shareholders? Pah! Why would they?" he said.

"The only shareholder who wants to sue me is Mr Arnault. Now, I'm a lawyer, and you can sue anyone for anything. The

His adversary, Mr Arnault, is described by some as "the Rupert Murdoch of the luxury industry". He collects companies like his customers collect labels. Under his stewardship his company has acquired Louis Vuitton, Christian Dior, Givenchy, Christian Lacroix, Kenzo, Moet et Chandon, Dom Perignon,

Veuve Cliquot and Krug. Not all the companies he now controls wanted to be controlled by him, and he reportedly has his eyes on Armani and Prada as well as Gucci.

The Frenchman's supporters say he has democratised the fashion and luxury goods industry to the extent that his

classes. To criticism that he only cares about the bottomline, Mr Arnault's supporters reply, in the style of Mr Mur-

doch, that fashion is a business. "I think Domenico De Sole is motivated in large part by what he thinks is in it for him if he forces us out or forces us to make a full takeover bid," a senior LVMH official said.

Mr De Sole is listening attentively to questions in his minimal, black-and-white Mayfair office. The chairman looks very un-Gucci, conservatively dressed in one of Tom Ford's charcoal suits, a blue shirt and a red-patterned tie.

I ask him, jovially, whether in

spitting out the "t". "About what? I am just protecting my shareholders. LVMH must make a proper bid, not a creeping acquisition which we and all the shareholders will lose

THE BRANDS

(All acquired by Bernard

Arnault)

Givenchy

Guerlain

Celine

Christian Dior

Louis Vuitton

Christian Lacroix

Moet & Chandon

Champagne Krug Chateau D'Yquem

Duty Free Shops (Far East)

Veuve Cliquot

Dom Perignon

Hennessy

By all accounts Mr Arnault sees his next acquisition as his next challenge. What about Mr De Sole? "My next challenge? A happy retirement," he smiles.

As William Nygren, the fund manager with the Chicagobased Oakmark Select Fund, which holds a significant Gucci stake, said yesterday, Mr De Sole and Mr Ford are a brilliant team, just like a perfect sports partnership. If one goes, nobody

Balloon pair close to record

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

WRAT DO you do when you are travelling in a balloon at 24,000ft? Shiver, apparently.

AT 6am today, having passed over Bombay, Colin Prescot and Andy Elson should have broken the world balloon endurance record. Their one problem is that they are rather

A heating pump on board the Cable and Wireless balloon has broken and with outside temperatures falling to minus 30C, the two men have been forced to put on the special coldweather clothing, suitable for Arctic conditions, they were carrying in case of an emergency landing in inhospitable

"Let's just say they are rather uncomfortable," a

spokeswoman said yesterday. "They do have the correct clothing but I still think they are rather cold. I know that there is ice on the inside of the observation window."

Mr Elson, 45, and Mr Prescot, 48, spent the best part of yesterday travelling at 50mph over the Arabian Sea, with unpredictable weather patterns requiring their full attention and not allowing them time to repair the pump.

The pair set off from Spain on 17 February and are attempting to circumnavigate the globe. Because they do not have permission from the Peking government they are being forced to go around China

Their course will take them across south-east Asia before they head north to try to catch the Gulf Stream that they hope will carry them across the Pacific at up to 160mph. They have supplies for 25 days.

To break the current endurance record, set last year by Mr Elson himself on board the Breitling Orbiter 2, the pair need to add 1 per cent to the nine days, 17 hours and 55 minutes achieved then.



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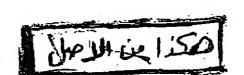
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Celts were 'really just a Scotch myth'

By KATE WATSON-SMYTH

THE CELTS are thought of as a romantic people, hard-drinking, free-spirited and proud. But according to a respected academic, the Celts of the British Isles may never have existed.

A leading professor from the British Museum in London is claiming in a new book that, far from maintaining an unbroken line of descent since prehistoric times, Britain's Celts are a recent invention dating back no more than 300 years.

Professor Simon James, an Englishman, argues that there is no historical or archeological evidence for an ancient nation of Celts in Britain and that the so-called Celtic groups were scattered people with little in common with each other.

The Iron Age and Roman archaeologist said the term Celtic came to be used in Britain only in the 18th century when a book was published by Edward Lhwyd, a language specialist, pointing out or the first time that Welsh, Irish, Scottish, Manx and Cornish were very similar to each other and to the Breton language spoken in

"Before that time people just referred to themselves as Irish, Scottish, Welsh and Cornish but they did not see them-

selves as being linked," he said. "Lhwyd called the group Celtic because the term had already been used on the contiment to refer to the ancient Gauls of France.



Mel Gibson and Scots spear carriers in 'Braveheart'

developed from there. Some

people in Wales started to call

monuments, which had hitherto

been called 'druidic', came to be

known as Celtic as well. Grad-

ually, but within about 20 years,

people had begun to identify

a forthcoming book, The Atlantic Celts, Ancient People

or Modern Invention? have so

outraged some people that he

has been accused of ethnic

Alex Woolf, a lecturer in

Celtic and Scottish history at

Edinburgh University, said it

was a "fatuous" argument and added that it was "blindingly ob-

vious" that the different Celtic

cleansing and genocide.

His views, to be published in

with this as a concept."

mselves Celts and ancient

"The idea of Celticness languages were all similar and belonged to the same ethnic

> "It's a question of what's in a name," he said. "People in northern Italy and France referred to themselves as Celts to distinguish [their tribes] from the Greeks and Romans but in Britain there were only Celts so people had no need to

They may not have used the term in Britain but they had many things in common with the Celts on the Continent - the same gods, the same names. We know that Milan in Italy and Whitchurch, in Shropshire, were both called Mediolanum by the Celts. The people living

had caused upset. "People do have very strong emotional attachment to this idea. The idea of Celts is rooted in deep antiquity and they get very upset when you tell them that it's a modern invention."

Meanwhile, Alex Salmond, the leader of the Scottish National Party, said yesterday the English had their own identity crisis that needed sorting out as there was a confusion between Britishness and Englishness. The notion of Britishness, he said, had been claimed by thugs and racists, while Englishness was an "aristocratic, almost medieval

The rediscovering of the English identity – and claiming it as a forward-looking, benign force, instead of the confusion which is manifest in England would be a very positive thing both for Europe and Scotland and for the rest of the world."

Rhodri Morgan, the Labour MP for Cardiff West, said he was "Celtic and proud of it" and Professor James' argument was "cobblers. The Celts were here before the Anglo Saxons and it's just English jealousy," he said.

We were civilised first and in fact the earliest poem ever to be composed in a post-Classical Language was in Welsh. There is no question that the Celts existed and were



A Celtic Cross looms over a windswept graveyard on Britain's Atlantic coast

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Vivisection firebomber loses appeal

THE JAILED animal rights ac- BY IAN BURRELL tivist and hunger striker, Barry Horne, lost his appeal yesterday against his conviction and 18-year sentence for carrying out a firebombing campaign.

Horne, who undertook a 68a protest designed to bring an end to vivisection, is serving what is believed to be the longest sentence given for animal rights offences.

The former dustman was convicted at Bristol Crown Court in December 1997 of charges of arson and attempted arson after causing millions of pounds in damage to shops on the Isle of Wight in 1994. Yesterday, Lord Justice

Tuckey, Mrs Justice Smith and

Mr Justice Gray, sitting in the Court of Appeal in London, rejected his claim that his conviction was "unsafe" and that his sentence was too long. Horne, 46, from Northampton, was present in the dock yesterday, flanked by four se-

curity officers, to hear the court rule against him. The court was packed with his supporters, who earlier handed out leaflets declaring Horne's "innocence" in the Isle

of Wight arson attacks. After Lord Justice Tuckey gave the ruling of the court, some people in the public gallery stamped their feet and there were shouts of "It's disgusting", and "Shame on British justice."

Horne had claimed in his ap-Judge Simon Darwall-Smith, Home Affairs Correspondent

jury during his summing-up, thus rendering the conviction

Lord Justice Tuckey said made an "error" during his summing-up, it did not render the conviction unsafe. He said with hindsight, the judge should have said nothing about possible alternative "candidates" for the Isle of Wight fire bomb attacks, but this should standard of proof required.

"We can see no reason for thinking that the sentence in this case was obviously too long. It seems to us that although it was a long sentence, it was a sentence which was the appropriate sentence for these very serious offences." The Crown contested

Horne's appeal, submitting that the evidence against him was "overwheiming".

Sentencing Horne, the trial judge had told him: "This was urban terrorism for a particular cause and objective. You put communities in terror. But I do accept that you did not intend an attack on human life."

During his trial, he had denied the Isle of Wight offences, but admitted two offences of attempted arson relating to the placing of timed incendiary devices in two stores in Bristol in

Horne went on a hunger peal that the judge at his trial, strike in an attempt to force the Government to set up a royal had given a misdirection to the commission into vivisection.

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101 muse

Toy museum Toy museum is victim of property deal

BY DAVID LISTER Arts News Editor

TWO EXHIBITS in the London Toy Museum tend to catch the eye immediately. One is an early Paddington Bear, made by Shirley Clarkson, an art teacher from Doncaster, for her young son Jeremy, who now presents Top Gear.

The other is a clockwork pig given to the future prime minter Stanley Baldwin, inscribed: For a good boy, love from Mummy and Daddy". But their celebrated provenance will not save these two childhood toys, nor the other 7,000 exhibits. among them television favourites including the first Womble and the original Bagpuss.

The museum, which attracts 120,000 visitors a year, will be ing figures, takes up an entire closed tomorrow by its Japanese owners and its collection sold off by Sotheby's in July for an estimated 13m.

The star item in the sale will be the museum's pride and is full of tin-plate toys - the Joy, a "working" coal mine four rarest are the seagoing kind bemetres long and three metres cause poor-fitting propeller high, complete with pulleys and even little leather men eating their sandwiches. The



Children enjoying a day out at the London Toy Museum in Bayswater. It will be open for the last time this weekend as its Japanese owners have decided to sell the site for redevelopment. Mark Children

model, which includes 200 movkept afloat by its cork lining. In the garden, there are model room. It was made by a Welsh steam engines to give children miner called William Phelps, rides at weekends. who began his project in 1902 The museum was founded in and finished it 20 years later.

1982 by two collectors, Alan The ships and boats gallery and Nerissa Levy. Seven years on, it was bought for £4m by the Fujita Corporation, the Japanese firm run by Kazuaki Fujita, shafts usually sank them. And a toy collector who died in 1995. there is the tin-plate clockwork The firm spent £5.5m on refurbishment but has now de-

maintain the museum. Its buildings - two town houses in Bayswater, west London - will be redeveloped into flats, the toys will be sold and the 30 employees made redundant.

Glenn Sharman, museum manager, said: "We have heard rumours about 11th-hour rescue offers, but the likelihood is that we will close this weekend. It's a terrible shame. It's not

cided it can no longer afford to only a wonderful collection of toys, but every day we run educational projects for 90 schoolchildren on Victorian toys." Among the pupils who have

been seen studying and enjoying the toys are Princes William and Harry, and the children of the actors Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman.

Michael Bond, author of the of those unhappy about the mission, so the collection can be

sale. "It is a delightful collection dispersed or taken into private of all sorts," he says, "Paddington would be at home there. But sadly he wouldn't be able to buy it for that price."

Loyd Grossman, the television presenter and a member of the Museum and Galleries Commission, is also concerned. He says: "I like the museum because my kids love it. But it is Paddington Bear books, is one not registered with the com-

ownership and hidden." Allen Levy says the London Toy Museum's collection sets it apart from other, more whim-

sical, collections in the capital's other toy museums, the Victoria and Albert Collection at Bethnal Green and Pollock's Toy Museum in central London. "We were the heavy metal boats, trains and cars. They had more dolls and dolls' houses,"

he says. There is, though, a spectacular dolls' house at Bayswater made 10 years ago by a prison inmate called Paul Woods, who spent 5,000 hours on the intricate woodwork of his

Palladian creation. Mr Levy has his own unar-guable logic for the museum to continue. "More people have played with toy trains and cars than have looked at a Rem-

ivisection

rebombe Channel 4 ises app fined over faked film

CHANNEL 4 was fined yester- By RHYS WILLIAMS day for the first time in its broadcasting history after admitting that scenes in a documentary about rent boys

The independent Television Commission imposed a £150,000 penalty on the network for Too Much Too Young: Chickens, which contained sequences in which the filmmakers posed as clients pickng ud rent boys.

confirmed three weeks ago, Channel 4 made a public admission and blamed the film's independent producer, Mary Devine. Channel 4 said she would never work for the network again, and overhauled its programme-making guidelines.

It was this swift and decisive action, the commission said yesterday, that in part spared imposed on Carlton Television for the faked drugs documentary The Connection. The latter had to pay £2m after it was revealed that large sections of its award-winning film about an called Stoying Lost, a docualleged new trafficking route between Colombia and London had been fabricated.

"The commission took into account that Channel 4 has responded firmly and approthe problem became known,"

the ITC said in a statement. "Although the breaches were serious and viewers were deceived; the incidents amounted to under three minutes of the half-hour programme. The rent boys were genuine and most of the film involved their reflections of life. The breaches and the extent of deception viewers were therefore not comparable with those in The Connection When the deception was and the financial penalty reflects this."

However, Michael Jackson, Channel 4's chief executive. said he was disappointed by the fine. "The implication is that we failed in our duty to our audience, but Channel 4 is certain it did everything in its power editorially and legally, to ensure the authenticity of this programme. Our procedures are Channel 4 the sort of sanction robust ... but no procedures are proof against deliberate and organised deception."

Channel 4 is still in dispute with Nottingham City Council over a forthcoming programme mentary about children in council care. The council is attempting to block the programme because it claims producers encouraged a young girl to pretend to be a prostitute priately when the full scale of and that they paid children to appear in the film.

'Here's to the kitchen we always promised ourselves...'



Smokers drop damages action

A HIGH COURT damages action
by a group of lung cancer sufAND JAN COLLEY ferers was abandoned yesterday after most of the claimants decided to call a halt to the case. The decision effectively brings to an end tobacco-

related litigation in the UK. Two firms of solicitors - Leigh Day and Co and Irwin Mitchell - who had taken on claims by 53 sufferers on a "no win, no fee" basis, are left with a costs bill running into millions of pounds. Mr Justice Wright, sitting in

London, was told that 46 of the claimants had signed an agreement withdrawing their actions and ending their conditional fee agreements with their solicitors. The other seven were given until 16 April to indicate whether they want to continue.

Yesterday's announcement follows a judgment on 9 February in which Mr Justice Wright decided not to exercise his discretion to allow the action against Gallaher and Imperial Tobacco to continue after

it was brought outside the legal time limit. The plaintiffs in eight test cases had all lodged their claims more than three years after being diagnosed with lung cancer

Had they been successful, the application would have paved the way for a larger group of lung cancer sufferers to sue the two firms. The lung cancer victims had

claimed that they suffered injury because all the cigarettes with which they were supplied between the 1950s and 1970s contained far more tar than was reasonably safe or appropriate. Robert Owen QC, for the claimants, told the judge that his earlier ruling had "caused

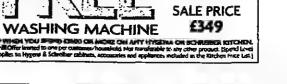
the plaintiffs and their legal advisers to take stock of the viability of this litigation". Martyn Day of Leigh, Day and Co later said that his firm

faces a bill for costs of £2.5m.

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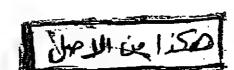
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ALE MUST END 1st MARCH









THE INDEPENDENT Saturday 27 February 1999

Britain's worst college: bad management, weird cults and a £5.7m debt

into the future of one of Education Correspondent Britain's fastest growing colleges after it received the worst

day on Bilston Community College, in Wolverhampton, is

HPREMIUM PLUS

Dunfarmline TESSA

ity controls and support for students were all given the worst possible gradings,

The college, which has been criticised in the past for activ-

Russian "champagne", has debts totalling £5.7m and is surviving on bank overdrafts and advance payments from funding officials. The Further Education Funding Council said it was sending in an inquiry team of experts - effectively a "hit squad" - to decide the future of the college. The team's



Some of the 55,000 students at Bilston Community College who, inspectors say, receive inadequate teaching and support

comes just weeks after the

Government announced a crackdown on failing colleges. Last month, George Mudie, the Education minister, said colleges that did not improve could be closed or their governors sacked.

Mr Mudie said yesterday: "We have made it absolutely

clear that we will not tolerate and inadequate management of All the ventures are now being poor performance by colleges."

Inspectors found "no key strengths" in Bilston College's management, governance, quality assurance and support for students. Their report said that poor management had led to a "significant decline" in educational standards. "Much of the teaching is weak and there

poor student retention and achievement in many areas." It called for the college to acide "inadequate support for students; weak teaching; poor

low achievements; inaccurate

the curriculum."

The college expanded from 11,000 students in 1994 to 55,000 in 1997 through a series of courses run under franchise across the country Managers ploughed ahead with expansion plans despite a £3.5m cut imposed two years ago.

Bilston also set up a web of seven joint ventures, including two job agencies, an importexport business, a film-making company, a garden centre and a publishing house - all part of an ambitious programme to regenerate the local economy. in our premises and create

wound up. It also entered into an arrangement with some Russian businessmen who had bought quantities of Russian "champagne" and wanted Bil-

ston to "test the market". Alan Birks, who was brought in as the acting principal in November to turn the college around, said it had "gone off the rails". But he insisted that the college, which now has only 12,000 students, could be saved. He said: "We're going to give priority to local people, which fits in with the Government's agenda. We are going to invest

local centres of excellence. We want to try to create a first-class learning experience."

Mr Birks said that he had already started work to bring the college's deficit under con trol. Some 130 managers have already left the college.

Paul Mackney, general sec-retary of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, said: "It's all a case of the emperor's new clothes. People were so caught up with the hype about expansion that they did not see the reality. This was a college which

New interest rates from 1st March 1999.

INVESTMENT INTEREST RATES FROM 1 MARCH 1999

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£3.000	- £5,999	6.40%		5.96%		
£100	-£2,999	5.90%		5.48%		
Monthly Save		CURRENT Gross Rates*/	CURRENT NET RATES**	FROM 1.MARCHTS Gross Rates*/	PERIOR 1 MARCH'S	
	Sonus Interest of 4.15%)	Gross AER***	(illustrative)	Grass AER***	(illustrative)	
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£25.000	£49,999	6.30%	5.04%	5.90%	4.72%	
£10.000	- £24,999	6,00%	4.08%	5.60%	4.48%	
25.000	. £9.999	5.50%	4.40%	5.10%	4.08%	
£2,000	- £4,999	4.60%	3.68%	4.20%	3.36%	
Premium Plus	stt Issue 3				-	
(Including Bo	nus interest)					
	£100,000+	6.40%	5.12%	6.00%	4.80%	
£50,000	- 199,999	6.20%	4.96%	5.80%	4.64%	
£25,000	- £49,999	5.80%	4.64%	5.40%	4.32%	
£10,000	- £24,999	5.30%	4.24%	4.90%	3.92%	
£5.000	- £9,999	4.80%	3.84%	4.40%	3.52%	
£2,500	- £4,999	4.30%	3.44%	3.90%	3.12%	
Premium Sha	res					
	£100,000	5.40%	4.32%	5.00%	4.00%	
£50,000	- 199,999	5.20%	4.16%	4.80%	3.84%	
\$25,000	- £49,999	4.80%	3.84%	4.40%	3.52%	
£10,000	- £24,999	4.30%	3.44%	3.90%	3.12%	
£5,000	- £9,999	3.80%	3.04%	3.40%	2.72%	
£500	- £4,999	3.30%	2.64%	2.90%	2.32%	
Dunfermline	Gold					
	£50,000+	4.55%	3-64%	4.15%	3.32%	
£25,000	- £49,999	4.20%	3.36%	3.80%	3.04%	
210,000	· £24,999	3.45%	2.76%	3.05%	2.44%	
000,53	· £9,999	3.10%	2.48%	2.70%	2.16%	
£2,500	- £4,999	2.85%	2.28%	2.45%	1.96%	
2500	- £2,499	2.55%	2.04%	2.15%	1.72%	
£100	- £499	0.75%	0.60%	0.75%	0.50%	
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67 000				6.20%	
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			T RATES**	Gross Rates*/ Gross AER***	NET RATES**
Children's Bond Portfallo Account		5.8	0%	6.35%	5.48% 4.56%
		6.10% 4.88%	8% 6	5.70%	
Bond (Closed Issue)	6.50%		0%	6.00%	4.80%
CUMBAT	CURRENT	CURRENT	FROM 1 MAR	CH '98	FROM 1 MARCH '59
Gross Rates*	Net Rates**	Gross AER**	Gross Rate	Net Rates**	Gross AER***
6.25%	5.00%	6.43%	5.75%	4.60%	5.90%
O+ 5.25%	4.20%	5.35° ₀	4.85%	3.88%	5.35%
	Bond (Close) Issue) CURRENT Gross Rates*	ACCOUNTS CURRENT Gross Gross 7.25% 6.10% Gross Current Current Cross Rates* Net Rates** 1-ord 6.25% 5.00%	CURRENT CURRENT CURRENT Gross Rates*/ NE Gross AER*** NE Gross AER*** S.B.	CURRENT CURRENT CURRENT Gross Rates* NET RATES**	CURRENT CURRENT CURRENT FROM 1 MARCH** Gross Rates*/ NET RATES** Gross Rates*/ Gross Rates*/ Gross Rates*/ Gross Rates*/ Gross AER*** 5.80% 5.85% 5.70%

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Hague's 'super A-level' plan attacked as elitist

ened by a new A* grade to prevent the dilution of standards threatened by government plans to reform the exam, the Conservative Party leader, William Hague, said yesterday.

However, the Tory leader's proposal was immediately attacked by secondary heads who branded it elitist and outdated as the dispute about A-levels gathered pace.

Mr. Hague's new grade would go to the top 2.5 per cent the first year of an A-level course of candidates. He said it would help employers and universities to select high-flyers. The controversial A* at

GCSE was introduced by the

previous government because of fears that the brightest pupils were not being stretched. In a speech at Folkestone School for Giris, in Kent, Mr

Hague said: "We believe that A-levels should be maintained as the gold standard in education and should be protected and strengthened. The new grade would ensure rigorous academic standards and spur young people on to the highest levels of achievement."

John Dunford, general sec-

Education Editor

retary of the Secondary Heads Association, said: "This would make A-level even more élitist. We are looking for post-16 qualifications which will serve the whole population and not a

Under the Government's plans for A-level reform, from September next year pupils will be able to take five subjects in to gain a new AS qualification. They will then decide whether to continue with three A-levels or

carry on with more subjects. The new courses will be in six modules chunks with exams that can be taken throughout the two years and mixed with

vocational qualifications. The National Association of Head Teachers warned the Government vesterday that its plans to reform A-level will fail. It wants a compulsory baccalaureate-style exam combining arts and sciences.

Under government plans pupils will be allowed to choose whether they take more subjects and universities will be



William Hague: Grade will help to select high flyers

free to keep their existing entrance requirements.

David Hart, the association's general secretary, told a conference yesterday that schools would be slow to take up new AS exams designed to broaden the sixth form curriculum.

He predicted that many universities would continue to select pupils on the basis of three A-levels and ignore the new

Mr Hart accused the Government of dithering. "The dan-

ger is that lack of government enthusiasm will lead to nothing like the broadening necessary. This would be a tragedy, bearing in mind that the current system serves only a minority and provides little, if anything, by way of relevant programmes of study for the majority."

Independent school heads have already voiced fears that the new arrangements will dilute the "gold standard" of Alevel and that universities will take no account of the new AS.

But Mr Dunford welcomed the changes. The vast majority of schools will do AS levels though I think most will choose to offer four rather than five because of problems with resourcing and timetabling."

He suggested that universities might decide to make offers of places on the basis of pupils' AS results instead of relying on predicted grades.

There will also be new voluntary business skills tests to ensure that pupils leave school able to read spreadsheets, write reports and cope with maths, and tests in communications, computer technology and numeracy.

Nissan gives new cars to young criminals

BY PHILIP THORNTON Transport Correspondent

A LEADING car company is giving new models to persistent young thieves in an attempt to discover the tricks of their

Nissan, the Japanese manufacturer, is supplying the cars to selected prisons and young offenders' institutions as part of a prison-education course. The immates will be asked to

tell all about how they steal cars - which models they go for and at what time of day, how long thefts take and whether locks and alarms are a deter-

Nissan said a pllot scheme at Durham jail found the reoffending rate for those who took part was only 30 per cent after 12 months, compared with 30 per cent for all offenders.

A Nissan spokesman said yesterday: "It takes the knowledge and fascination which first-time offenders have for cars and reorientates it in a more positive direction. It stops them from stealing cars by getting them interested in car maintenance and associating cars with the consequence of to other people and them-

He said the course deglamorised car theft by debunking "street" myths about the crime and explaining the possible fatal consequences of "joyriding and police chases. "We know that this programme is going to reduce car crime, but maintenance equipment, car British Crime Survey.



Nissans will be used to crack car criminals' secrets

perhaps it will also help to re- models and training for prison duce the huge waste of these officers to give the 30-hour young people's lives who keep getting locked away."

At the end of the course the itation from the Open College, stealing them in terms of harm which shows they have learnt about the implication of their criminal past.

The spokesman said two of the prisons being considered included Glenpava in Leicestershire and Rochester in Kent. Both are large jails with big young-offender populations. Nissan is providing car-

courses. The scheme will begin in spring or summer, although Nissan said it was too early to offenders are given an accred- say which prisons would be selected. The spokesman said the scheme would apply only to first-time offenders, as the programme would be less effective for recidivists.

The United Kingdom is Europe's capital of car crime, with a vehicle stolen every minute. In 1997 there were 3.48 million thefts or attempted thefts of or from vehicles, according to the

saved from death

BY CHRIS HAMILTON

A PAIR of lions rejected by their fellow animals in a safari park were saved from being put down yesterday after a home was found for them at the last minute

Brothers Bruno and Bantu had to be moved after they were turned into outcasts by the dominant males at Woburn

Safari Park in Bedfordshire. Time was running out because no new home could be found and they faced death by lethal injection - until West Midlands Safari Park stepped in.

The pair will be moved to the park in Bewdley, Hereford and Worcester, next week, where they will eventually replace the park's dominant but ageing male lions.

Chris Webster, Woburn's chief executive, said: "I am hugely relieved and very pleased indeed that there has been a positive outcome, more positive than we could possibly have hoped for.

"When they started to plan the succession in their pride they remembered our situation and were only too happy to take on our two.

Bruno and Bantu had to be removed, both to avoid them suffering and to protext the fragile balance of the





er A-level Las elitie

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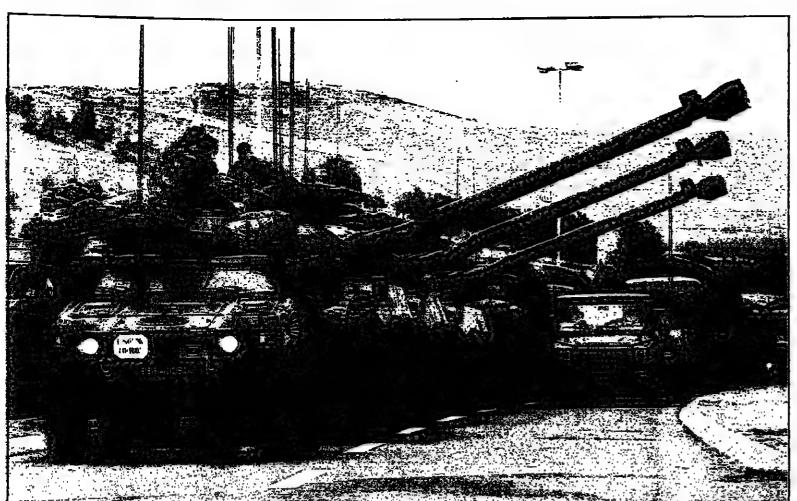
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French troops waiting to enter Macedonia, where a Nato force is assembling to patrol a peace deal in neighbouring Kosovo

ears for shutus Serbs move in for assault. on Kosovo

FEARS TRAT Serbia is about to launch a big military offensive in Kosovo grew last night, as the Yugoslav army massed troops and tanks around the province and international observers trying to enter Kosovo were de-tained on the frontier.

The US Defense Department said Belgrade had deployed at least 4,500 troops on the border of the province, backed by tanks, artillery, and armonred personnel carriers. At the same time, 13 tanks left the main barracks in the province's capital, Pristina, yesterday to join about 30 already stationed in the Vucitra area, north of Pristina.

Eight employees of the Or-

ganisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), meanwhile, were forced to spend the night in their cars after being prevented from entering Kosovo from Macedonia. "It's tense," said Beatrice Lacoste, a spokesperson, "They were being held - they can't go to Kosovo," At least one of the menitors is British.

The moves to block the monitors fed speculation that the Serbs are planning attacks on Kosovo villages as part of a campaign against "terrorists" seeking independence from

In Belgrade, the Yugoslav army said its burst of activity was a "winter training exercise". Most observers said they believe the army aims to drive the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) from Vucitra, which has been the scene of several armed skirmishes this week.

A KLA spokesman told Reuters news agency: "They say they are on field manoeuvres, but what army do you ing a war? Obviously they are looking to attack our positions

after attacks on ethnically mixed villages and a rash of shootings this week in which one Serb was killed.

Already the army's activity has sent about 4,000 Albanians fleeing from their villages, according to aid agencies in Kosovo. Massacres of Albanian civilians at Racak and elsewhere have made the Serb military an object of terror to the province's non-Serb majority.

The Albanian government complained yesterday to the Nato secretary general, Javier Solana, that Serbia was engineering a confrontation with the Kosovars to sabotage peace talks, which are due to restart on 15 March.

The last round of talks ended inconclusively in Rambouillet, near Paris, on Tuesday, "Belgrade is sending troops massively into the region in preparation for a general offensive against Kosovo," the Albanians said.

From Spain, Mr Solana warned Yugoslavia against trying to alter the military balance on the ground before 15 March. date peace, not to take advantage and make any change in the situation." he said, although The KLA moved into the he did not reveal what meaarea in October Serbs have re- sures Nato would take if the cently been leaving en masse, Serbs did attack.

Students rip down Israeli barbed wire

A THOUSAND Lebanese col- By PATRICK COCKBURN wire around a village in souththe Israelis sealed off 10 days

Chanting "Death to Israel". "We are all for our nation" and

heads to disperse them. The students, Christian and versities all over Lebanon to protest against Israel's takeover of Arnoun, outside the Israeli occupation zone, on

17 February. trying to protect residents and their soldiers from attacks by the Lebanese guerrilla movement Hizbollah.

The students, carrying nating from Lebanon". Lebanese flags, cut the wire and moved in yesterday morning. An Israeli spokesman said the demonstrators later left Árnoun.

Heavy shelling by Israeli artillery in the area has reduced demolished 14 homes in the village, saying they were being bushed by Hizbollah used by Hizbollah to make Most Israeli casur roadside bombs.

Lebanon has protested to the United Nations and the mand wire.

ern Lebanon yesterday that United States over Israel's expansion of its self-declared security zone, set up in 1985.

The Lebanese Prime Minister, Salim al-Hoss, said: "Is-"God is great", they danced in rael's assertions that it wishes the main square of Arnoun as to withdraw from Lebanon Israeli soldiers fired over their sound absurd as it annexes yet another village."

Israel says people from Muslim, gathered from uni- Arnoun can continue to cross in and out of the security zone by using a checkpoint at Kafr

Dore Gold, Israel's ambassador to the UN in New York, The Israeli army says it was said Arnoun has "long been part of the security zone which Israel has been compelled to maintain in response to the continued terrorist attacks ema-

There have been few rocket attacks and no ground assaults on Israel by Hizbollah since the there were no casualties and agreement that ended the Israeli bombardment of southern Lebanon, known as "Grapes of Wrath', in 1996.

Earlier this week three Isthe population of Arnoun from raeli officers from an élite para-2.000 Lebanese to 35. Israel also troop unit were killed and five wounded when they were am-

Most Israeli casualties are inflicted by roadside bombs remotely controlled by com-

US babes roll over to Beethoven

THE MUSIC that rocks the cra- BY DAVID USBORNE dle in America these days is not in New York "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" or even hillabies sung by mummy. Instead, thanks to schemes across the land to distribute free classical music compact discs to the mothers of all newborn babies, it is the overtures and airs of Mozart, Bach and

Beethoven.

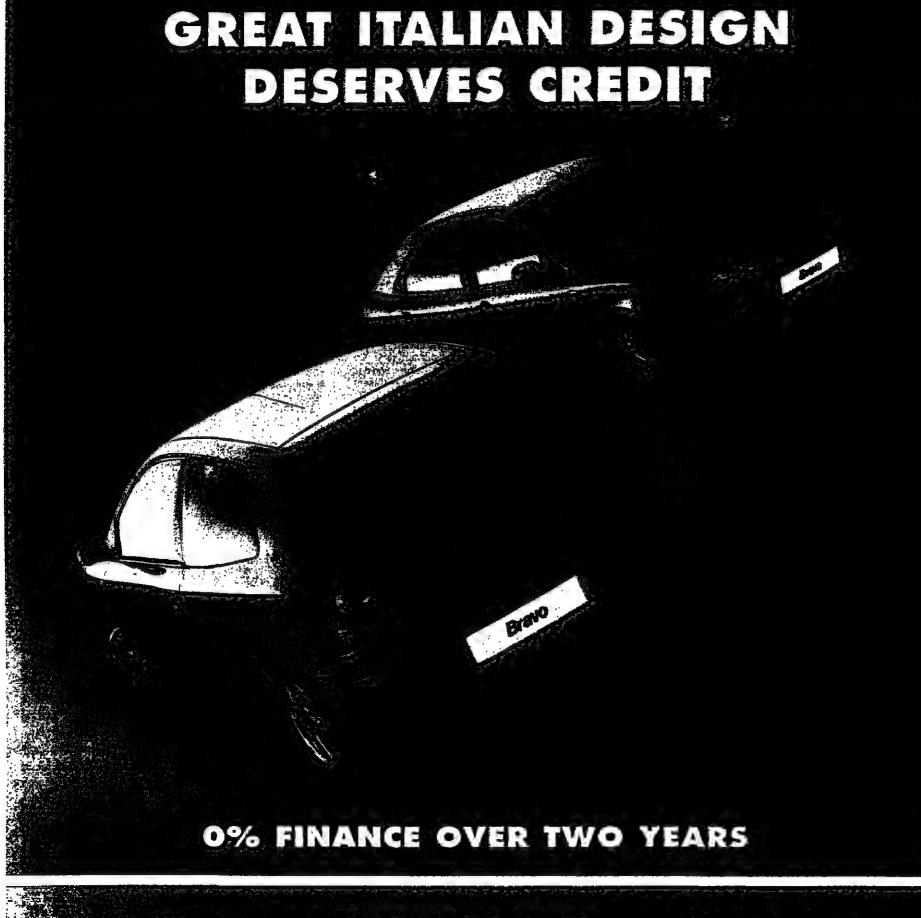
The first with the idea was the former Governor of Georgia Zell Miller. She pushed through legislation in 1997 ensuring the distribution of CDs to new mums across the state in response to research suggesting that playing classical music to infants helps brain cell development - the so-called Mozart Effect. The CD, reeased by Sony Music, is called Build Your Babies Brain through the Power of Music.

The Georgia programme is aiready in its second year. And now others around the country,

far from lampooning Miller as an eccentric, are following suit. Indeed, a whole new generation of Americans will be addicted - even conditioned - to listening to classical music. Some have already dubbed them the "Beethoven Babies",

Last year, Florida passed a Beethoven Babies Bill, requiring all state-run infant care facilities to play at least one symphony to their wards every day. Tennessee is launching a scheme whereby every new mother will receive a certificate for another all-classical baby tape, Listen, Learn, and Grow. A similar programme for classical CD distribution has also been launched in Colorado.

It may not be long before every American baby will be figgling to Air on a G String and Eine Kleine Nochtmusik.





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Students rid Iown Israel rarbed wire

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o Beechmen

ears for reconciliation in Rwanda s Hutus are moved off their land

icaca, Rwanda

QUEUE snakes along the road into the hot, hazy dise. Thousands of barefoot, ed-clothed Hutus are conging on Macaca for the st hand-out of blankets, p and water cans from ristian Aid.

Across Rwanda's waraged, north-west region ere Hutu extremists, reonsible for the 1994 genocide a million Tutsis and modere Hutus, continue to engage e Tutsi-led Rwandan army een and fertile fields lie abanoned and crops destroyed. In the past year, in the shad-

of the towering volcanic buntains that mark Rwanda's order with Uganda, hundreds, perhaps thousands, of men, women and children have died. Post-genocide, ordinary Hutus find themselves stuck between a rock and a hard place. Some have been murdered by Hutu extremists (including former local leaders) whom they refused to help or hide, while others have been killed by government troops for collaborating with the enemy. Many have simply died in the vicious bush war's crossfire.

More than 600,000 Hutus the north-west has virtually no Tutsi population - have been internally displaced in the only region where the genocidal killers refuse to fade away. But in recent months the Rwandan goverament has gained the upper hand in the bloody conflict with a combination of military attacks and an offensive to win

local hearts and minds. Though no one can predict how long it will last, peace has broken out. The displaced, however, have not gone home to the isolated shacks that have traditionally sprinkled almost every hillside. As if they had not suffered enough upheaval many of these people spent two years in Congolese retugee camps after fleeing Rwanda with the murderous Huta militiamen – they are at the centre of a radical government experiment in social engineering.

"Villagisation" has arrived, and the displaced are being moved into new cluster settlements. The revolutionary change is taking place at a tearing pace. In just three months almost 300,000 people have been other 300,000 - mostly languishing in displaced persons'

camps - are poised to follow. The Tutsi-controlled Rwandan government insists villagisation is what the local people want. But critics say the Hutu population is being forced to



Hutus who have been moved from their land under Rwanda's villagisation programme walking to Macaca to receive aid

move to hastily built villages near main roads for military

Villages - umudugudus may be alien in a land where people prefer their nearest neighbour to keep a decent distance, but they will help the government to control the Hutu homeland, and separate insurgents from civilians who collaborate – either out of choice

At Macaca the signs of war, and endless, miserable disruption are everywhere. Alongside the road a hillside lies wasted. Six weeks ago 46,000 people were living on the slope, for relocation.

Everyone has been dispersed now to unrudugudus such as Kalingolera, a mile down the road. Trying to gauge the real level of support for villagisation in Kalingolera, and elsewhere, is difficult.

First, access to the area is restricted by the government and continuing insecurity. Despite claims that the government has overstretched itself by sending forces into neighbouring Congo to hunt down Hutu militia leaders, the north-west is awash with soldiers. Aid workers venture in only with

army escorts. The roads are heavily patrolled and without government permission it is almost impossible to visit At Kalingolera two soldiers with AK47s hover while Muhanuk Felicien, 42, describes

how he moved here on Christtumabakuze, and six children. From a pitiful, temporary shack the government is promising houses, but not yet - he points to the distant hill and his old house. His fields once began at his back door. Now it takes up to an hour to reach them.

because of the infiltrators," he says. "They demanded services and food. And if you refused, they could do anything, even kill you."

He describes, in the flat, matter-of-fact manner of those used to suffering how his daughter was killed in crossine.
An were his sister in law and her two children.
In the end," he says, "it was

saler to be with the government soldiers." While he sales people feel safer in the villages he adds some would still prefer to return to their old homes.

That is clearly not an option. marched into the new settlements. But that does not mean they have had a choice. Even the owner of a relatively huxunearby valley has had to move you have a house 10 storeys collective local way.

"We had to leave our home high it will have to be abandoned if it is not in a village," says a local priest, full square behind the policy. Post genocide, the Hutu po-

litical position is, understandably, weak. And such is the culture of obedience - which after all helped to facilitate three months of massacres nationwide - and top-down government that people are not accustomed to thinking for the rural Hutu - dirt-poor and

uneducated - says and thinks. Still at Kalingolera, a few older men dare to say that the nearly all the rest sing villagisation's praises. John Rucyaone of a new generation of rious, brick-built house in a moderate Hutu community leaders installed in the northinto a new settlement. "Even if west since 1994, articulates the

remaining in their own home? "The government has a plan," he says. "And everyone has to as Tutsi survivors." follow it or it is politically selfdefeating." The bishop argues that villagisation will mean not just security for his beleaguered people but their first access to clean water and

plan risks being regarded as an insurgent sympathiser. "At first the people did not fully trust the new government," he says. "But they are now beginning to see that it is still suffering from lack of food and shelter but the killing, at

promised schools and clinics. It

also seems clear that anyone

who does not comply with "the

Only a minority of Hutus, he insists, supported the genocide. "I counsel people who

least, has stopped. It is time for

people to stop existing and

What if someone insists on are still traumatised and ashamed by what was done by fellow Hutus ... as traumatised

> Some in the charity sector agree villagisation might be a useful developmental tool. "But the problem is that no one has been told exactly what kind of revolution the government is that an insurgency which threatundertaking," says one non-(NGO) spokesperson. "And in-.. the government more slack. ternationally other pro- It has been an extraordinary grammes of villagisation have movement in just three been a disaster." So secretive months," says one. "But it looks is the government about proposed legislation for land reform that rumours are lective farming, or an elaborate wheeze to deliver land - farmed by 90 per cent of the population into the hands of a few.

Even in the new, united Rwanda, where talk of ethnic difference is officially discouraged, the political context can-



A displaced Tutu child in a T-shirt received from an aid agency at Mucaca camp

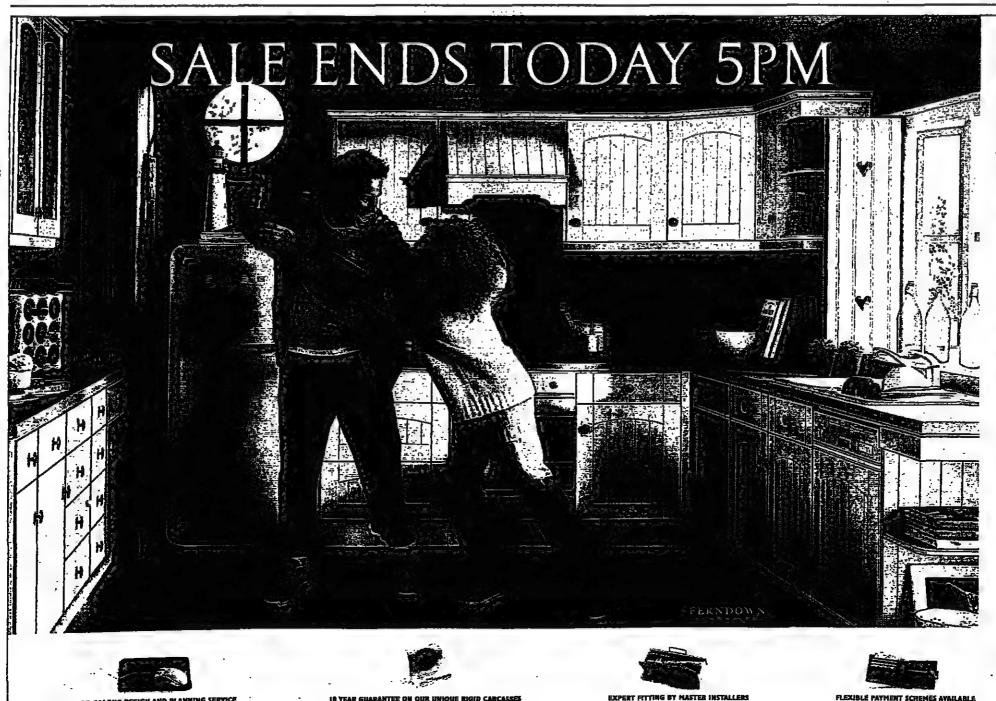


not be ignored, according to another NGO spokesperson. "We still have a Tutsi-led government seemingly imposing a policy in areas predominantly Hutu." The real danger, according to some donors, would be if a policy in which locals seem to have had little say fails from lack of plunning or money. That would only exacerbate Hutu resentments and bitter ethnic divisions.

Charities are terrified to put their criticisms on the record for fear of offending a government sensitive to criticism. But they are meeting to discuss their position. Inevitably it is they who will be asked to fund the revolution.

Some Western diplomats, meanwhile - mainly concerned ened the whole country be elimgovernmental organisation inated - seem prepared to cut less sinister that other international examples of villagisation." Even he allows, however,

donor funds until the government lays bare its plans. Until then suspicion will linger that the Hutu heartland into fresh disaster, one that could have appalling consequences for reconciliation.



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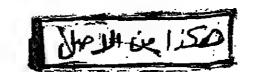
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Military 'rigging' Nigeria's elections

of today's Nigerian presidential elections were heading for a clash with the military regime, after the former US president Jimmy Carter said he was worried about voting malpractices and ballot box fraud.

The comments by Mr Carter, his own team, US Republicans and the European Union's 100 monitors who until now have their concerns.

These concerns have included a claim that about 16 million voter registration cards have not been accounted for and numerous reports of ballot box stuffing and inflated voter tallies, especially in the southern oil-producing states, where voting has also been marred by ethnic violence.

Mr Carter urged the two candidates in the election, Olusegun Obasanjo and Ola Falae, to urge their supporters to respect election regulations.

He also criticised the military regime for failing to publish a constitution ahead of the elections, which began at local authority level last December.

Ten days ago, the regime of General Abdulsalami Abubakar announced it had re-enacted the country's 1979 constitution. rection." The move meant little to Nigerians who have not been informed of the future powers of the bodies they have been vot- a thief can come to power in ing for, such as the House of elections in Nigeria. Representatives.

INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS BY ALEX DUVAL SMITH

dence from Britain in 1960. In 39 years Nigeria has known civilian rule for only 10. The new president, who must gain at least 25 per cent of the votes in who heads a delegation of 60 US two-thirds of Nigeria's states, observers, were welcomed by will formally take over on 29

Since 1960 dictators and coups have succeeded one anspoken only off the record of other, and statistics and election boundaries have been manipulated. That is not difficult, as Nigeria's real population could range from 90 to 128 million.

Sixty million ballots, printed in Britain and flown in on Thursday, are thought to be "about the right number" for the 57 million people who, in October, gave their names, ages and thumbprints to registration officers around the country.

The campaigns, which began after primaries held only two weeks ago, were dominated by pacts between powerful individuals rather than by issues.

But Abdul Orch, director of the Civil Liberties Organisation, said: "This is the best we can do for the moment. We cannot expect elections organised by the military to be democratic. This is a step in the right di-

Balarabe Musa, former governor of Kaduna state, said: "The system is such that only

The person who takes Today's vote is to elect a over in May will be among the president who will serve for four richest and most corrupt of



Olusegun Obasanjo, in traditional Nigerian chief's robes and brandishing a fly whisk, delights crowds of supporters at a packed rally

Only Obasanjo can win race to lead nation



OLU FALAE, the underdog in BY ALEX DUVAL SMETH the presidential elections, has centred his two-week campaign on the need for a clean break with military rule. But Falae was a finance minister for General Ibrahim Babangida from 1989 to 1991

Last in 1 CA

He is a Yoruba from the southwest, so likely to do well in and around the economic capital, Lagos. But he is weak nationally, not least because voters are confused about which party he belongs to.

Yoruba nationalists see him as the natural successor to

elect who died in General Sani Abacha's custody last year Abachi died weeks later.

Palae started out with the Alhance for Democracy (AD) but now runs on the ticket of the All People's Party. His campaign team says two weeks has not been long enough to travel the width and breadth of this gigantic country, without the jets and cars provided for General Olusegun Obasanjo, 63. But implemented by the military the parties have only them- and that, when he left the fi-

campaign; none wanted to 7.50 to the US dollar. The rate show its hand far ahead of the yesterday was 91 to the dollar. presidential elections.

Falae, 60 and Yale-educated, is a free-marketeer who believes the best way to combat corruption is to remove official controls. He was the architect of a stringent structural adjustment plan under General Bahangida that went much further than anything the International Monetary Fund might have proposed.

He claims the plan was badly

vision. He is the favourite to win today's presidential elections. His opponents say he is Falae's manifesto includes

tion of power and privatisation electricity distribution. Obasamo's is unclear The Falae way to get Nigeria back on its feet despite the low price of oil, which accounts

free education, decentralisa-

for 95 per cent of Nigerian exports, includes expansion of gas production and diversification. Obasanjo, the former military ruler who handed power to

a civilian government in 1979,

Abuja allegedly raised 350 million naira (£20m), with N120m from a single donor. Obasanio was jailed in 1995 by Abacha for allegedly staging a coup. He was among the first released by the present leader,

funded by the military estab-

hishment and, if he wins, he will

merely be a military leader in

musti. He certainly has the

wealthiest backers. A fund-

raising dinner last Monday in

has since built an internation-Abdulsalami Abubakar, when nance ministry, the naira was all reputation as a politician of the took power last June. selves to blame for the short Ole Falae: The underdog Moshood Abiola, the presidentyears as head of Nigeria's ramily coas are in expens they aren't expected to give you

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Big business threat to quit Germany

GERHARD SCHRÖDER'S red BY LEA PATERSON green coalition is not even six honeymoon period with the German business community seems to be over.

Growing concerns about tax reform, higher wages and economic slowdown have prompted many of Germany's most powerful businesses to take direct action in an attempt to oush the government into proadustry reforms.

The week, Allianz, Europe's piggest insurer, became the latest multinational to threaten to locate elsewhere if the redgreen coalition presses ahead with controversial economic reorms putting 73.000 jobs at risk.

In Allianz's case, the main one of contention was proposed changes to the tax sysem that could, according to the company, cost it almost £1bn over the next four years.

Helmut Perlet, Allianz's hairman, described the government's plans to restructure rerporate tax: tion as "unjust and overdone", and said he would move key parts of his business out of the country uness Chancellor Schröder and us colleagues backed down. A spokesman for the company said: "We have a duty to protect nur shareholders and investors. Some businesses can be trans-en ed relatively quickly."

Allianz's threat came just jays after Dana Corporation, the US motor component manafacturer, switched production from Germany to Leeds, and followed a similar move from the electronics giant Sony. Observers say these are not isolated incidents, but rather reflect growing dissatisfaction among the business community with the economic policies of

cerns focus not only on the structure and the level of corporate taxation - which has a top rate of 45 per cent compared with 30 per cent in the UK – but also on labour costs. According to some calculations, employment costs in Germany are, on average, some 70 per

cent higher than in Britain. The pay deal struck last week in the German metal industry did little to reassure employers concerned about rising costs. After a bitter



Gerhard Schröder: The honeymoon is over

dispute and threats of widespread industrial action, IG Metall, Germany's biggest trade union, negotiated a wage increase for its members of between 3.6 and 4.2 per cent, substantially above the rate of German inflation.

Analysts now expect similar pay deals to be struck across the metal, engineering and electrical industries, and have predicted that the consequences for German business could be severe.

the coalition. Business con- Slemens, is just one leading above all in structural reforms."

businessman to argue that his costs will increase substan-tially because of the IG Metall deal. Siemens' costs could soar by £300m a year, he estimated, and analysts have warned that other German industrial giants could face similar cost increases.

Economists at the investment bank ABN Amro said: "The main issue for companies is how they will respond to this increase in costs.

"Industrial companies can no longer pass on higher costs in the form of higher prices. Inevitably, the short-term result will be a direct hit to corporate profit margins. Companies may be forced to cut costs through

further job-shedding."
None of this is pleasant news for Chancellor Schroder. who has made the challenge of driving down unemployment from its current level of 4.5 million a centrepiece of his economic policy:

Faced with a rapidly slowing economy - which contracted in the fourth quarter of 1998 for the first time in three years the government has begun to badger the European Central Bank (ECB) for help.

Most vocal among those ask-

log for interest-rate cuts has been the Finance Minister, Oskar Lafontaine. So far, however, his entreaties have fallen on deaf ears. Wim Duisenberg, the ECB president, insists he has to balance the demands of all 11 countries in the eurozone. "The high unemployment rate in Europe is far more the consequence of structural rigidities within the European labour and product markets than adverse cyclical develop-Heinrich von Pierer, chief ex-ments," said Mr Duisenberg. ecutive of the industrial group The solution is to be found.



Pupils at the Dutch Society for Open Christianity's school in St Petersburg, which has been surrounded by police Sergey Tyagin

Troops in siege over 'zombie' pupils

BY HELEN WOMACK in Moscow

CHILDREN AS young as four were reported yesterday to be inside a foreign run religious school in St Petersburg, where older pupils and teachers have been locked all week in a stand-

off with heavily armed police. While the siege dragged on, the governor of St Petersburg. Vladimir Yakovley issued a warning against religious sects which, he said, were furning out "zombified children".

However, although police said they had orders not to yield, one officer assured reporters: "No matter what the order is, we will never attack the children."

The siege began on Monday morning when police blocked access to the school, which is run by the Dutch Society for Open Christianity: Only a few teachers and pupils were inside the building at the time, But more slipped in to support the occupation, so that eventually 40 children and 20 adults were inside.

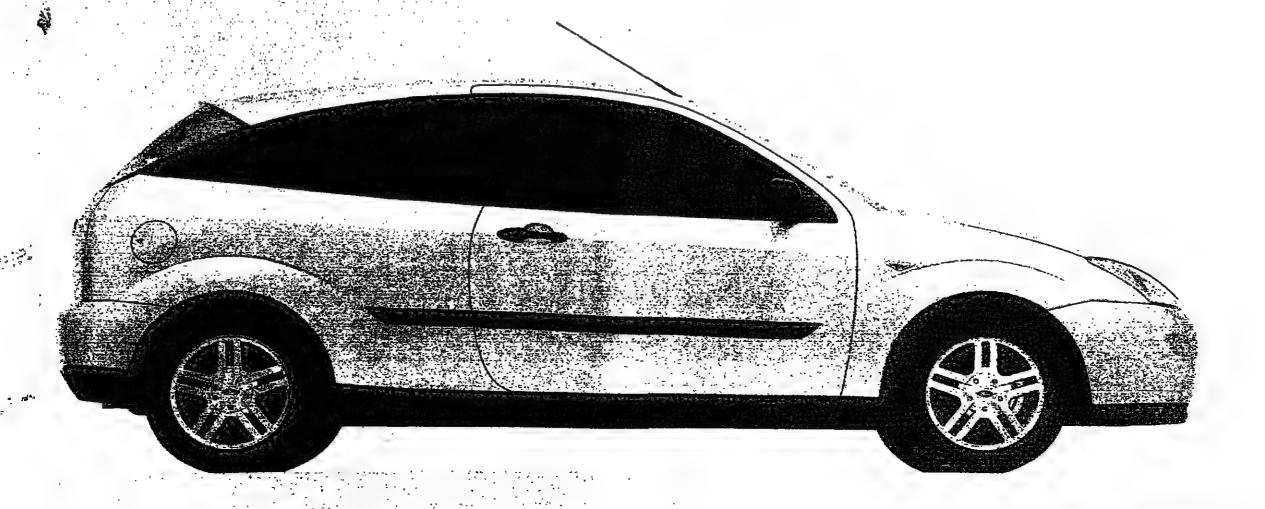
Police said they were enforcing a recent ruling of the St Petersburg City Arbitration Court that the society could no longer use the school rent-free and should leave. The society argued that since it had renovated the building, the rent-free agreement should stand or alternative accommodation be provided.

City officials blamed "irresponsible school staff" for "using children to pursue their goals". Governor Yakoviev ordered his officials to "look carefully into all the religious schools and into what they teach because we already have zombified children".

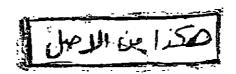
Freedom of religion is supposed to be guaranteed in post-Communist Russia. However. nationalism is rising and the view is becoming prevalent that a "true Russian can only belong to the Orthodox Church".

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Israeli murder suspect escapes trial

WASHINGTON WAS furious yes- BY DAVID USBORNE terday after the Israeli Supreme Court ruled that an American-Jewish teenager Maryland 18 months ago - and who fled within days to Israel

 should not be extradited to stand trial because he can ical fish shop, had been charred claim to be an Israeli citizen. By a three-to-two majority, the court said Samuel Sheinbein, 18, should not be returned acetylene gas bottle and a new the law is the Supreme Court,

to the United States to stand circular power saw. The legs trial for the murder of Alfredo and arms of the teenager were never found. Aaron Needle, the of a 1978 law that bars the extradition of Israeli citizens to face trials abroad

The court said the law superseded a 1963 extradition treaty signed by Israel with

Mr Sheinbein, who had a record of behavioural problems, and a teenage acquaintance, Aaron Needle, were quickly tied to the murder by detectives after they found Tello's body in the garage of an empty house in Wheaton, a comfortable suburb of

in New York

The case made headlines becharged with a grisly murder in cause of the sheer grisliness of what was found. The body of Tello, 19, better known as Freddy and a worker in a local tropalmost beyond recognition and

> other accused man, died after hanging himself with a bedsheet last April while awaiting trial in prison.

> American fury at this week's decision stems from the tenuous nature of Mr Sheinbein's claim to Israeli citizenship. He was born and lived all his life in the US. His father, Sol Sheinbein, a patent lawyer, was born in British-ruled Palestine and lived in Israel for two years after it was created before leaving for America in 1950. He has Israeli citizenship and his son, therefore, can also claim it.

The court made its ruling in spite of direct appeals to Israel to grant the extradition from both the US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, and the could become a sanctuary for Attorney General, Janet Reno. Ms Reno later voiced her

The decision was defended Benjamin Netanyahu. In a Beside it, detectives found an state of law the interpreter of whose decision we must honour. I am sure that the United States, which is also a state of law, understands this," he said.

disappointment.

Israel's Justice Minister, Tsahi Hanegbi, promised yes-terday that Mr Sheinbein would be brought swiftly to trial in

He added, however, that prosecuting him outside the US would be difficult, "It has become clear that the existence of such trials outside the borders of the state where the crime was committed makes it nearly impossible to carry out were reversed, we would be justice," he said.

The Israeli government had been hoping for a different de-

cision. With so many Jews living abroad with claims to Israeli citizenship, the government is concerned that the country criminals seeking to evade jus-

tice in other states. Prosecutors in Houston fear another man with Israeli citiby the Israeli Prime Minister, zenship charged this week with killing a clerk in a wig shop may have fied to Israel.

That worry was highlighted by one of the Israeli judges. Chief Justice Aharon Barak noted that hundreds of thousands of Israelis live abroad and that the Sheinbein decision risks turning "Israel into a sanctuary state" for criminals.

Security Albert Wynn, member for the Maryland district was "appalled. "The court undermines the

In the US House of Repre-

spirit of co-operation embodied in the Israeli treaty with the United States. If the situation expected to co-operate and we expect no less from our allies,"



Samuel Sheinbein (front left) sits under guard in Israel's Supreme Court

The man who talks for Timor

WEEK IN THE LIFE

JOSE RAMOS-HORTA, the he told them that after inde-Nobel peace laureate and de-East Timor's resistance move ment, has not had much sleep since Indonesia made its unexpected offer of indepen-

dence to the territory it has occupied for 23 years. Last week he was on three continents. On the Sunday he more vulnerable group, so I was in the United States. will again stand on the side of where he spends most of his the vulnerable group." he time. Increased interest in told them. He knew many of Timor has ensured he is "rea- those present had been tor-

lectures across the country. "I used to be grateful if I their sisters raped. was given \$100 [£60]," he [£6,000] per lecture."

But the pace of diplomat ic activity on the Timor front has meant most of Mr Ramos-Borta's time is spent in talks, talks and more talks. On Monday he had breakfast. with an "old friend", Richard Holbrooke, the American UN ambassador-designate. "We met in a personal capacity,"

he adds mickly. The United States is not quite sure what to do about Timor, so contacts with the Timorese resistance are conducted with care. There is strong support for the Timorese in Congress, and Mr Ramos-Horta, an ebullient and urbane networker was busy working the phones, encouraging its members to support funding requests for a US peace-keeping pres-

flying to Lisbon to meet the President and Prime Minister of Portugal. The former colonial rulers of Timor are proving very helpful, he says... "It speaks volumes about their honesty. They readily acknowledge the way they mishandled decolonisation in 1974-75 and they want to make up for it."

Between meetings Mr Ramos-Horta was on the phones again, trying to put together a panel of high-level international economic advisers for the new Timor. He also spent a lot of time on the phone to Xanana Gusmao, the leader of the Timorese resistance recently released into house arrest, from jail by the Indonesians.

Mr Gusmao has been trying to find a way for Mr Timor but the Indonesians are not keen to have him on the premises.

"Xanana says they can haning the armed resistance much," says Mr Ramos-Horta. "What cost them more was the damage to their international reputation. Being a proud peothe damage I did." So he is busy everywhere

but in Indonesia. His main President Clinton." Timorese contact is with exiles. In Lisbon he convened a again, heading for his temmeeting of 300 leaders-in- porary extle "home" in Sydexile. "All the young people were smiling. I have not seen that for a long time," he says.

pendence he would be standing on the side of those who advocated union with Indonesia, and with migrants who had settled in Timor from other parts of Indonesia.

"For 23 years I was the leading voice of Timor's cause because there was no sonably paid" for his many tured by the Indonesians, or seen their families killed and

"The room was silent, then Eays. Now my rate is \$10,000 I saw many heads nodding in



Jose Ramos-Horta: The main voice of resistance

have to have tolerance and reconciliation." He thinks everything will be lost if that does not happen. Not one person raised a note of dissent

By the end of the day he was on a plane again, headclave of Macau. The governor vest in the new Timor.

Mr Ramos-Horta left the governor's palace for a more tional royal leaders of Timor. rulers they would have a chamber, similar to the House of Lords, alongside an elected parliament.

The Independent met Mr Ramos-Horta in Hong Kong as he talked to more potential investors.

His own role in the new Timor? Mr Ramos-Borta threw up his hands and said: "I only hope I can get away without being in the govern-Ramos-Horta to return to ment.". He wants to be a private citizen, not bound by the protocol and duties of being a foreign minister

When he collected his dle him because he was lead- Nobel prize in Oslo he wore a black tie for the first time. which did not cost them that "I felt ridiculous," he says. "It's not in my genes to be in these formal situations."

Besides, he says, with a twinkle: "What would happen ple they cannot forgive me for if I were foreign minister and a Timorese Monica shows up? I might be impeached like

By Friday he was in the air ney, where he can spend only two months a year. Will he slip quietly into



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THE TOO STARTS AT EINZO

They stopped smiling and the role of a private citizen of initially looked puzzled when Timor? Highly unlikely.

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Rugby in talks on Australian deal

RUGBY, the building materials group, is in talks to buy the cement and lime business of its Australian rival, Adelaide Brighton. Industry sources said that the deal, set to cost around £100m, would boost Cockburn Cement, Rugby's Australian operation. Rugby is believed to be looking at acquiring a controlling stake in Adelaide for around £70m, and buying out its minority shareholders, Pioneer and CSR two Australian building materials converted. CSR, two Australian building materials groups, for around £30m. Meanwhile, Rugby is thought to have tabled an indicative offer for Scancern, the Scandinavian construction materials giant, which owns Castle Cement, the UK's second largest producer of cement.

British Energy eyes US plant



BRITISH ENERGY, whose chief executive is Peter Rawlins (pictured), is hoping to expand its nuclear power interests in the US after being granted exclusive negotiating rights to conduct due diligence on a nuclear plant in Vermont. The rights have been granted to AmeriGen. British Energy's 50-50 joint

venture with PECO Energy of Philadelphia. The venture was formed in 1997 and struck its first deal last July when it agreed to pay \$100m for a plant on Three Mile Island, the scene of one of the world's worst nuclear accidents. The current target is Vermont Yankee, a 540-megawati water reactor built in 1972 which is the east coast state's only

Brewer to create 1,450 jobs

SCOTTISH & NEWCASTLE, Britain's biggest brewer, is to create 1,450 jobs by investing £54m in the expansion of its T&J Bernard brand of pubs. The expansion will raise the number of T&J Bernard outlets to 160 from 70 by 2002. The pubs are based in town and city centres and aimed at the over-25s. S&N has also been expanding its Rat & Parrot and John Barras pub chains.

STOCKIMARKETS							
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Index	Closes	Comple (perfol 2	62 wk bigh #	2 wt low York(%)
FTSE 100	- 6175.10	-31.40	-0.51	6319.80	4599.20 2.60
FTSE 250	5248.30	22.20	0.43	5970.90	4247.60 3.21
FTSE 350	2923.60	-10.70	-0.37	2975.70	2210.40 2.70
FISE AR Share	2825.39	-9.51	-0.34·	2886.52	2143.53 . 2.74
FTSE SmallCap					

FTSE 250	5248.30	22.20	0.43	5970.90	4247.60	3.21
FTSE 350	2923.60	-10.70	-0.37	2978.70	2210.40	2.70
FISE AR Share	2825.39	-9.51	-0.34·	2886-52	2143.53	.274
FTSE SmallCap	2277.30	6.00	0.26	2793.80	1834.40	3.54
FTSE Fledgling	12-3.60	3.10	0.25	1517.10	1046.20	4.45
FTSE AIM	823.50	2.30	0.28	1146.90	761.30	1.15
FTSE Eurotop 100	2804.45-	-20.02	-0.71	3079.27	2018.15	2.10
FTSE Eurotop 300	-1222.63	-6.48	-0.53	1332.07	880.63	1.99.
Dow Jones	9213.16	-78.5½·	-0.84	9647.96	7400,30	1.67
Mikloel	14367.54	-102.91	-0.71	17352.35	12787.90	0.99
Hang Seng	9858.49	200.42	2,08	11926,16	6544,79	3.55
Dax .	49[1.8]	-46.77	-0.91	6217.83	3833.71	1.74
56P 500	1230.33	-12.54	-1.01	1283.91	923.32	1.29
3503Q	2286.22	-38,01	-1,63	2533.44	1357,09	0.29
Ponto 300	6274.20	-32.60	-0.52	7837.70	5320.90	1.71
Brazil Bovespa	8801.22	127.15	1,47	12339.14	4575.69	7.04
Beignum Bel20	936T.88	-42.96	-1.25	3713.21	2695.72	2,11
Amsterdam Exch	536.12	1.61	0.30	600.65	- 366.58	1.92
France CAC 40	4092.94	-59.62	-1,44	4404.94	2881.21	1.93
Milan MIB30	35055.00	45.00	0.13	39170.00	24175.00	1.17
Madrid Ibex 35	9997.30	-54.80 .	-0.55	10989.80	6869.90	1.76
hish Overall	5335.85	8.57	0.16	5581,70	3732.57	1.53
S Korea Comp	520.06	20.92	4.19	: 651:95	. 277.37	0.18
Australia ASK	2879.90	-24.90	-0.86	2948.70	2386.70	3.21
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SHORT STERLING	UK 10 YEAR GET	US LONG BOND
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1.30	430	5.20
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				REN	CIE	S		
Dermany	3.10	-0.42	3.07	-0.69	4.03	-0.90	4.96	-0.53
Japan	0.27	-0.57	0.30	-0.46	1.96	9.09	3.12	0.62
US	5.03	-0.65	5.39	-0.39	5.31	0.34	.5.59	0.36

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uro	1.4587	+0.99c	1,4079	Euro	0.9063	-19.75c	0.8573	
n	190.59	-¥0.99	208.98	Yen	118.69	·¥0.81	127.25	
Index	100.60	+0.00	105.20	\$ Index	107.70	+0.00-	108,70	

OTHER INDICATORS								
						Yr ago .Nest Ago		
Breat Oil	(5) 10.57	-0.21	13,28	'GDP' 115,40	3.00	112.04 - Mar		
Cald ICS	285.75	-1.10	294.55	RPI 163,40	2.40	159.57 Per		
En- (C)	5 58	0.16	6.05	Base Rates	5.50	7.25		

Brent Off (5) 10.57	4/21	13,50	701	110110			
- Gold (S)	286.75			RPI	163,40	2.40 .	159.57	Feb
Silver (S)	5.58	0.16	6.05			5.50	7.25 OE	at Spe
www.bloomberg.com/uk SOURCE: BLOOMBERG								
TOURIST RATES								

Australia (S)	2.4798	Mexican (nuevo peso)
Austria (schillings)	19.27	Netherlands (guilders) 3
Belgium (francs)	56.65	New Zeeland (5) 2
Canada (S)	2,3448	Norway (krones)
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8123	Portugal (escudos): 2
Denmark (kroner)	10.52	Saudi Arabia (rials) 5
Finland (markka)	8.4273	Singapore (S) 2
France (francs)	9,2300	South Africa (rands) 9
Germany (marks)	2.7608	Spain (pesetas) 2
Greece (drachma)	453.74	Sweden (kronor)
Hong Kong (\$)	11.96	Switzerland (francs) 2
Ireland (punis)	1,1057	Thailand (bahts)
Indian (rupees)	61.22	Turkey (lirasi) 54
Israel (shekels)	6.0119	USA (\$)
Healy (lira)	2736	
Japan (yen)	186.31	Pates for indication purposes on
Malaysia (ringgics)	5.8310	

Alliance shares fall despite promise of £740m buyback

fell by 6 per cent yesterday in spite of an announcement by the mortgage bank that it will return

up to £740m to its shareholders. The market punished A&L for announcing underlying op-erating profits of £455m, at the bottom end of the range of analysts' expectations, Most had been expecting nearer £470m and rival banks have reported

higher-than-expected profits. Traders were also annoyed . by a fall in A&I's profit margins, affected by a price war in the mortgage market. A&L has sought to grab market share by offering competitive mortgage

SHARES IN Alliance & Leicester By ANDREW VERITY

rates and keeping a tight rein on credit. While the strategy has succeeded, boosting market share from 3.4 to 4.2 per cent, analysts were surprised to see profit margins shrink to less than 3

Shares in Alliance & Leicester dropped from 891p to 840.5p, wiping £127 from the value of the average retail investor's holding, now worth £2,100. Richard Pym, finance di-

rector of A&I., said the company would return the surplus capital to shareholders by buy-

ing its own shares in the market after April, whenever it judges the action would increase earnings per share.

Mr Pym said the bank decided against a special dividend paid direct to shareholders. That would give the money back to some shareholders who didn't want it - it could throw some shareholders into a higher tax hand." he said.

He disappointed the market by adding that the group would not necessarily spend the entire £740m it held in surplus capital, and could spread the buyback over as much as three years. The move follows recent re-

turns of capital announced by Halifax, which is passing £1.5bn back to shareholders by changing its capital structure, and the

Yesterday some analysts questioned whether the mortgage bank's one million retail shareholders would benefit from the mooted buyback, which may have little impact on the value of their windfalls.

A year ago, Halifax an-nounced a fibn return of capital using the same method that A&L is proposing to use. In the year since then, its share price has fallen from over 950p to 767p yesterday.

However, others welcomed the move. Gavin Oldham, managing director of the Share Centre, a retail broker, said: The excess capital hasn't been

working for the shareholders and it has effectively been diluting the earnings per share. And if the company doesn't have the luxury of the excess capital it will wake up to the business challenges."

Privately, industry observers believe the recent spate of returns of capital could stem from a growing fear that the Government could introduce a new windfall tax on the "excess profits" of banks, Many bank ex-

ecutives remember a similar tax levied on banks in the mid-1980s, when they were judged to have made excess profits because of high interest rates

used to curb inflation. However, Don Cruikshank, the Chancellor, to run the Government's banking review, has indicated that a windfall tax on banks was unlikely to form part of his recommendations.

Separately, Mr Pym said the bank was planning cost cuts which would entail job losses but refused to say how many of the bank's 7,000 staff would be



Go-Ahead's management team (from left) Ian Butcher, finance director, Martin Ballinger, managing director, and Chris Moyes, commercial director, at the company's results announcement yesterday

Nicola Kurtz

Go-Ahead to seek rail deal renewals

GO-AHEAD, the public trans- BY PHILIP THORNTON port group, is to seek an early Transport Correspondent renegotiation of both its rail Government's offer made at the and Thameslink, which both ex-

pire in April 2004. The Government amounced on Thursday that it was putting the rail network up for auction by allowing a limited number of franchises to be extended in exchange for a package of substantial passenger benefits.

mercial director said it believed ment may decide it could get a it had a fair chance despite the National Rad Summit. The com- franchises' current perfor- chise open to the market bepany said yesterday it was draw-ing up bids for Thames Trains awarded Thames a D grade and Thameslink a C. He accepted that Thames's

improved and said the Thameslink bid was confused by the 2600m Thameslink 2000 upgrade project, which is now not due to be completed until 2006.

Chris Moyes, Go-Abead com- growing railway, with passenger not daft enough to think we from 3p.

numbers up 11.6 per cent in its could negotiate a longer deal on first year of privatisation.

Analysts believe the Governbetter deal by throwing the francause of the benefits of the infrastructure imgrade. But Mr Moyes said that by 2004 the heavy work would have started current performance had to be to cause delays and choke off demand. He said Go-Ahead would offer new rolling stock for Thameslink to cope with the extra demand and on Thames to better cater for its long-distance Thameslink is the fastest- routes. But he added: "We are

Thames while its performance is as it is."

were late last year on the network, which runs from London to the Thames Valley and the

The group yesterday reported a pre-tax profit of £21.4m for the six months to 2 January, a 21 per cent rise. The train businesses made an operating profit of £7.9m, a 39 per cent increase on £5.7m a year ago and a 6.5 per cent return on turnover. The interim dividend will rise to 3.5p

Railtrack chief Horton set to retire

SIR ROBERT HORTON, the con- BY NIGEL COPE troversial industrialist, is to step down as chairman of Railtrack later this year when he rail network group intends to recruit an external replacement

and a search is under way. "Sir Robert is 60 in August and told the board some time ago that he wanted to retire this year," a spokesman mid.

Railtrack said the timing of the announcement was not related to the rail summit earlier this week, in which railway standards were criticised by the

Government. Sir Robert has been chairman of Railtrack since its formation in 1994 and helped steer the privatised track operator to its £2bn flotation two years

His departure brings to an higher yesterday at 1552p. end another chapter in a career studded with controversy. His reputation reached its nadir during the latter stages of his time he became chairman of the oil giant in 1990 BP was a

Cuts were inevitable but he did nothing to endear himself to workers with his abrasive style. It was during an interview with Fortune magazine that he made a remark that came to haunt him; "Because I am blessed by my good brain, I tend to get the right answer rather quicker and more often than most people."

Associate City Editor

He became one of Britain's most unpopular industrialists and in 1992 was ousted in a boardroom coup. "I don't think I'm arrogant and abrasive," he said later. "I tend to say what I think and don't disguise it."

His popularity was further dented when he moved to Railtrack and within months the network ground to a halt due to a bruising industrial relations

He tried an oil industry comeback with JKX Oil and Gas, though that too ended in failure. The company was rescued in 1997 by a £55m takeover from Ramco Energy at a fraction of the issue price.

Railtrack shares closed 77p



Sir Robert: To step down on reaching the age of 60

Zeneca sues US rival American growth fuels over 'false' drug claims interest rate fears

tical giant, yesterday sued its US rival Eli Lilly, claiming that the American company con-ducted a "false and misleading" campaign to promote one of its

In a lawsuit filed in a New York court, the British group alleged that the US drug giant "systematically and deliberately attempted to mislead doctors" on the benefits of Evista, an osteoporosis drug.

According to Zeneca, Lilly's sales representatives told physicians that the drug helped to reduce the risk of breast cancer even though it had only for osteoporosis - a bone- in the sales of Nolvadex.

ZENECA, the UK pharmaceu- By Francesco Guerrera thinning disease which affects

middle-aged women. maker of Nolvadex, the leading product for the treatment of breast cancer, and one of

Zeneca's best selling drugs. Last year Notvadez sales totalled \$369m in the US and around used by around 400,000 US patients and last year received approval to be used to prevent the disease in high risk women.

The lawsuit said that Lilly's false claims prompted a number of doctors to prescribe Evista for breast cancer, leading to a drop

According to a Zeneca survey of over 500 doctors, one in three physicians were led to believe that Evista could be used The UK company is the as an alternative to Nolvadex. Zeneca, which is merging with its Swedish rival Astra, claimed that Lilly's campaign created "serious risk to public health" as more and more women are using Evista instead of \$500m worldwide. The drug is Nolvadex. The British company is seeking undisclosed damages and wants Lilly to pay for an advertising campaign to

> A spokesman for Lilly yesterday denied Zeneca's allegations: "We don't feel there is anything inappropriate in our

deny the Evista cancer claims.

THE US ECONOMY grew at a far BY LEA PATERSON

faster pace last year than first thought, official figures revealed vesterday fuelling fears in world markets of a rise in US interest

According to the Commerce Department, US gross domestic product grew at an annualised rate of 6.1 per cent in the fourth quarter of 1998, not, as previously estimated, at 5.6 per cent. A better-than-expected export performance and higher business investment lay behind the revisions, analysts said.

The stunning growth rate, which is more than three times

In New York, the Dow Jones fell 72.53 points to 9293.81 by the mid-afternoon, with concerns about the outlook for technology stocks also weighing on sentiment. The unease on Wall Street spilled over to London, where the FTSE closed down 31.4 points at 6175.1. Other major European bourses also ended lower, although prices in the US bond market, which suffered heavy losses on Thursday, held

Not all analysts were convinced that interest rates would the corresponding measure in necessarily rise in the US, the UK, sparked speculation where the inflationary outlook about higher US interest rates. remains relatively benign. Sev-

eral drew attention to yesterday's GDP deflator, a widely-followed measure of inflation, which rose at an annualised rate of 0.7 per cent, the smallest increase in four decades. Richard Iley at ABN Amro said: "With whole economy inflation according to the gdp price deflator - continuing to hit new lows, the Fed can afford to sit tight for the time being."

Meanwhile, Lawrence Summers, the US deputy treasury secretary, sent the dollar high er against the yen after he urged Japan to stimulate growth via looser monetary policy. Mr Summers said Japan should not rely solely on a weaker exchange rate.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

FOOTSIE WEAKENED again, pulled down by another weak performance in New York. The blue chip index was lowered 31.4 points (after 49.9) in another busy session with share turnover topping 1 bil-lion. The supporting indices were in better form. The mid cap index rose 22.2 to 5,248.3 and the small cap 6 to 2,277.3.

Cigarette shares made headway following the High Court dismissal of 48 smoking and cancer related claims. Gallaher improved 17.5p to Derek Pain, page 21 NEW YORK

THE DOW JONES fell 90 points in early trading but almost halved losses later thanks to bargain hunting in technology shares. Just before midday the Dow was down 49.98 at 9,316.38, and Nasdaq was 31.02 lower at 2,295,80. News that the US economy

expanded at an annual rate of 6.1 per cent in the fourth quarter of last year fuelled fears of a . possible rise in rates. Daimler-Chrysler fell on reports that a team is in Tokyo negotiating the takeover of Nissan.

PARIS

WORRIES ABOUT Wall Street depressed both Frankfurt and Paris but the CAC40 fell furthest, closing 59.62 down at 4.092.94.

most traded stock, jumping 2.2 to 82.25 euros after the stock's weighting in trackers rose. Banking stocks were mixed, with Paribas and Société Génerale moving up and BNP going down. Re-nault eased ahead of results on Monday and reflecting investor concern at possibly losing out in merger activity in the Far East.

France Telecom was again the

HONG KONG

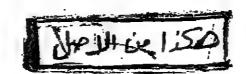
THE HANG SENG index rose 200.42 to 9,858.49, closing just below the day's high, again encouraged by futures trading. HSBC led the way, gaining 5

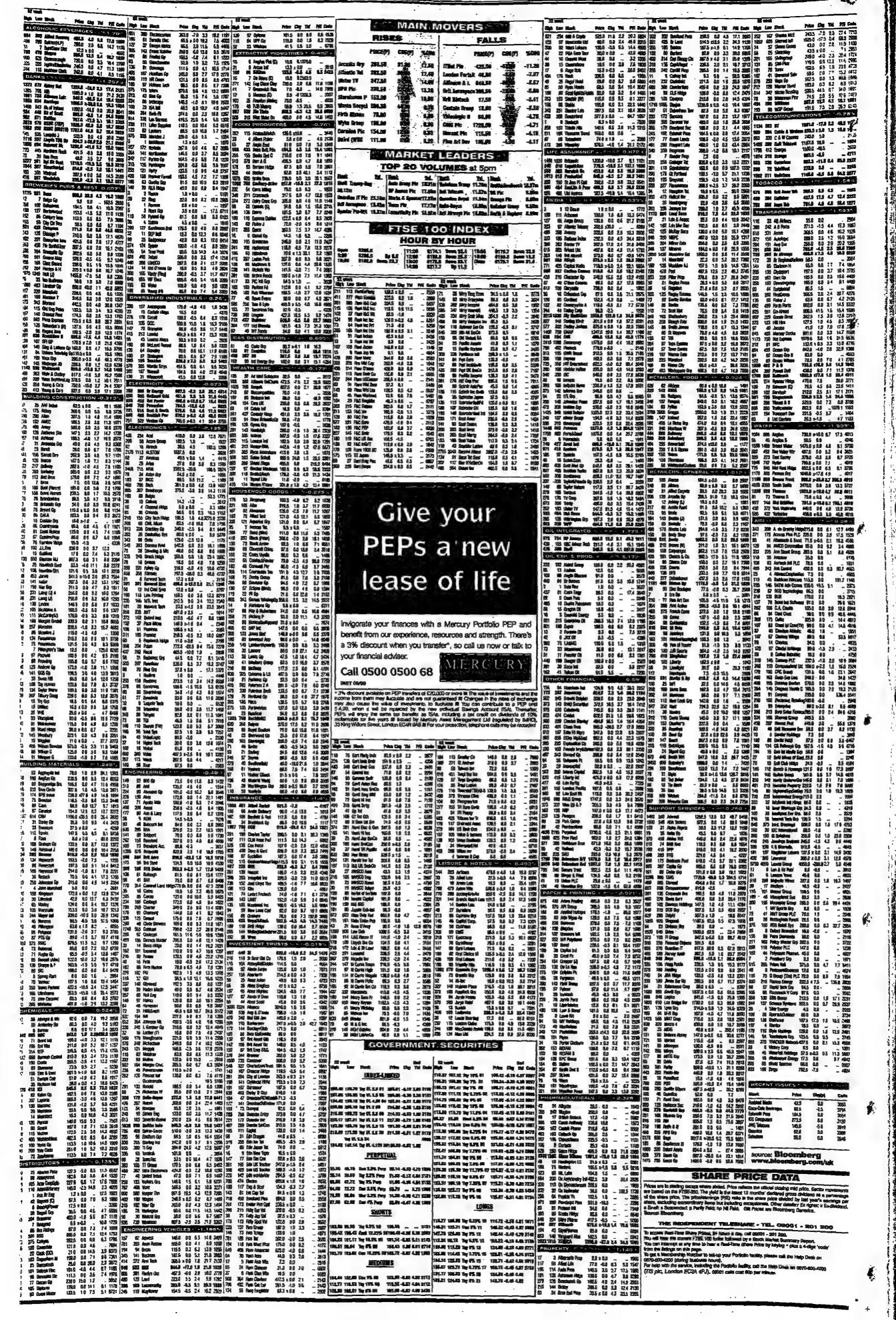
to HK\$218.00 on talk of US investors buying the stock in anticipation of a share split and New York listing. Most banks also moved higher but FPB bank was down a touch after worse than expected results. Reports of a planned Disney theme park also boosted sentiment.

SEOUL

SOUTH KOREAN stocks rose by over 4 per cent on average, with the Korea Composite Index closing 20.29 better at 520.06. Fears of labour troubles subsided after the moderate FKTU said it would delay until the end of March a decision on whether to withdraw from the tripartite panel representing unions, employers and the government.

Industrial output and falling interest rates also bolstered confidence. The banking sub-index rose more than 8 per cent.





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Europe needs to create growth now

THE RECENT performance of the US economy has been nothing short of phenomenal. Even before terday's upward revisions to rowth, the pace of expansion in the US was hard to believe. The latest estimate – an annualised rate of 6.1 per cent - puts the US firmly into the category of the Tiger economies of the Far East before the meltdown. That may in itself carry a message, but when you consider that official measures of inflation have yet to pick up any evidence of price pressure, it all begins to look as if the much-maligned proponents of the "new economy" could have been right after all.

However, even if there has been some improvement in the trade-off between growth and inflation in the US, it is difficult to see how the economy can continue to expand at this rate without something giving somewhere. Signs of strain in the country's current account are alhly more than apparent. Financial markets have begun.

probably rightly, to worry about an increase in US rates over the coming months. Fears of a US rate rise have been the trigger for many Wall Street corrections in the past, and it seems hard to believe the buils



OUTLOOK

when they argue that this time round such a move has already been fully discounted. Whether the correction will be anything other than a short-term stumble is less obvious. Many shots have already been fired at the Wall Street bubble. None of them have yet managed to bring the market crashing down to

The more worrying scenario is that a rise in US interest rates, and a consequent slowdown in the world's largest economy, will end up plunging the whole world into recession. The industrialised world has been spared the full impact of the crisis in the emerging markets only thanks to the US's extraordi-

nary propensity to consume. If is logical, practical and compelling, growth in the US starts to crumble Because no one, however inspired -as is looking increasingly likely -then the whole world will start to feel the pinch.

All this makes the case for stimplating growth in Europe even more compelling. It is time the eurozone started acting like the world power it so desperately wants to be. Until Europe starts to take up the slack on growth, it is difficult to be anything other than gloomy about giobal economic prospects.

Index tracking

ONE OF the most worrying stock market trends is the rise and rise of the index-tracker funds. There was another survey published this week, showing both that they are continuing to grow as a proportion of managed innds, and that they are continuing to outperform others. Everyone in the City knows it is wrong, everyone knows it is insane, but there seems to be nothing anyone can do to stop it. Like doomsday machines, the trackers keep coming, vacuuming up all before

The tracker fund's raison d'etre

an investor they are, can hope indefinitely to keep spotting the market winners, it is best to spread your bets across the market as a whole.

Over the last two to three years, for instance, the hot sectors have been banks, telecommunications, pharmaceuticals and anything to do with computers. If you had had the foresight to invest in only those sectors, you would have done amazingly well. Unfortunately, since all these sectors looked relatively expensive even three years ago, very few investors will be in that

If on the other hand you had invested only in other sectors, you would have done amazingly badly. In these circumstances it is hardly surprising that investors should wish to spread their risk. To the despair of "active" fund managers those that sell themselves on the basis of stock selection - trackers have consistently outperformed during the great bull market of recent history

So much so, that trackers are now the Government's and the Office of Fair Trading's officially rec-

Why pay useless fund managers over the odds for underperformance when low-cost passive investment so consistently beats them, the Office of Fair Trading asked in a report last year.

It is hard to argue with the point. Nonetheless, the investment ef-fect is a perverse and dangerous one. What it means is that the biggest and most favoured stocks attract money in ever-increasing nounts, regardless of the underlying fundamentals, which in turn ans less money for the rest.

Take the two recent transatlantic mergers in the FTSE 100 -BP and Amoco, and Vodafone and AirTouch. British tracking investors were forced greatly to increase their weighting to these companies after the mergers went through, so as to take account of their much greater market capitalisations and their consequent relative position in the market as a whole.

Obviously that means less capital for other companies. But it is worse than this; the more Vodafone shares rise, the more Vodafone shares the trackers have to buy, making them more valuable still. Many trackers are being forced to invest in a way that few of their pro-

fessional managers would think sensible or advantageous. Some of the more candid ones say it openly - "I wouldn't buy shares at the valuations my tracker funds do". What we have here is not so much a speculative bubble, for that description implies choice, as an enforced one.

Computer stocks

THERE'S ONE sector where even small companies are the investor's favourite. Executives only have to mention the words information technology and investors start drooling. Not surprisingly, they are cashing in. At least three IT firms Synstar, Axon and Morse - are at various stages of raising funds. More may follow before the end of the year.

These three companies are all in very different areas of the market, with varying growth rates and prospects. What they all have in common, however, is that they will be capitalised at £300m or less - the small-cap bracket that fund managers have tended to ostracise.

Some firms have good reasons for going public. In a fast-growing industry, they need extra capital to expand and can also use their stock as a currency for acquisitions. A stock market listing also allows companies to offer share options as a way of hanging on to their staff.

Nevertheless, the latest batch may have other motives. Enthusiasm about growing demand for computer services has driven valuations to extreme levels. In some cases this is justified - particulary those with exposure to mobile telephony or electronic commerce. However, others will have a harder time living up to expectations as the IT market slows towards the end of

the year. So the enthusiasm for IT flotations may soon wane. Yesterday's embarrassing debut from Synstar - when the shares dropped 7p below their 165p issue price on the first day's trading – will not have helped. The float appears to be a clear case of CVC, the venture capital group, capitalising on skyhigh valuations to make a quick turn on an investment it made only 18

With the current batch of IT new issues, it may be that investors are able to pick up the shares at a cheaper price once they have been on the market for a few months.

cancer claims boosts Gallaher

GALLAHER, the cigarette group expected to announceonly modest profits growth next week, was for a time the top Footsie constituent as the High Court dismissed 46 cancer and smoking claims.

The shares were puffed up 25p to 445p, only 15p below their all-time high. Then in volatile late trading, enthusiasm was aimost stubbed out before the shares recovered some of their firmness and ended 17.5p higher at 437.5p. The 46 cases were also dismissed against the other leading British cigarette group, Imperial Tobacco, which suffered something of a rebuff, adging ahead only 4p to 731p. not come as a surprise and the shares of the two cigarette producers have enjoyed increasing stock market support. Blue-

blooded stockbroker Cazenove yesterday joined the buy chorus. It is widely believed that the High Court decision will discourage much further action against the two groups and will strengthen the investment appeal of Gallaher and Imps.

British American Tobacco. cocrating oversees and not a direct beneficiary of the judgment, firmed 6.5p to 569.5p.

SIGNET HELD at 40.75p as BT Alex.Brown lifted its profits forecast by 6 per cent to £87m and the analyst John Richards suggested the shares should hit 60p. In former Ratners gets nearly 75 per cent of its profits from the US and is probably the most successful British retailer in America. Four years ago the shares slumped to 12p;

Gallaher is one of 12 Footsie companies on next week's reporting schedule. BT Alex Brown is looking for a 2 per cent gain to £320m.

last year they touched 51p.

During a another busy session, leading equities on several occasions tried to rally. For a time Footsie moved hesitantly into positive territory but the index ended 31.4 points lower at 6,175.1.

Supporting shares, however, were again more confident. The mid cap index rose 22.2 to 5,248.3 and the small cap 6 to

An indecisive New York display was the major influence. All the other factors that pushed Footsie to a peak during the week, such as Tony Blair's euro signal and the flow of steady company profits, were quietly forgotten.

Railtrack, where the chairman Sir Robert Horton is retiring, was back on the express line, advancing 77p to 1,552p in further response to the rail summit and the company's confident projections.

the major Footsie casualty off products under licence - Cad-

MARKET REPORT



PAIN

50.5p to 840.5p following uninspiring results.

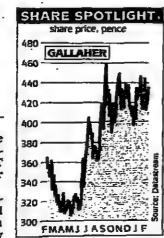
British Aerospace lost 23.5p to 396.5 as worries about its to fade, and Glaxo Wellcome gave up 75p to 1,991p on its US flu drug rejection.

Retailers continued to edge higher as investors took the view that the sector's recession. was coming to an end. Marks & Spencer firmed a

further 4.75p to 419.75p following its management shake-up, although BT Alex Brown wondered whether the group "fully understood its problems".

Arcadia, half of the Burton split, rose 31p to 208.5p as a large stock overhang was anparently cleared. An agency cross of 2.3 million shares at 187p, then a premium to the DEALINGS ARE due to market price, inspired the

surge. The shares, however, remain in the bargain basement; they topped 500p a year ago.



Storehouse, where vague takeover gossip has been heard, added 15p to 153p and the department store Selfridges, the subject of a British Land build-up, improved 15p to 239p. Among the depressed re-tail tiddlers, Era gained 0.5p to 6.75p. The toy shop chain has doubled since July. This week

it produced an encouraging profit forecast. Cadbury Schweppes slipped 15.5p to 957p. According to US reports, it is trying to spend some of its potential cash pile on buying a Hawaiian Punch drinks business from Procter & Gamble, the sprawling detergent and foods group. The deal would cost around £95m.

Although it has no significant Alliance & Leicester, the confectionery interest in the US - Hershey makes and sells its bury is America's third-largest soft drinks maker.

Enterprise Oil, talking merger with Lasmo, rose 18.5p to 269.5p. US buying was said

Some of the righ-flying computer shares took a tumble. Guardian IT accompanied higher profits with share sales by one of its venture capitalist backers and by directors and management. The price fell 30p to 617.5p. ITnet lost 53.5p to 425.5p although profits rese 44 per cent.

Waste Recycling, suspended at 456p for the takeover of 3C returned to market, ending a 500.5p. The group, headed by rapidly; it was worth £8.3m five years ago and after the latest deal is capitalised at more than £500m.

Atlantic Telecom's expansion into Northern England from its Scottish base added a further 30p to 202.5p, but Filtronic, a maker of telecom bits and pieces, fell 26p to 797.5p as investors moved to take profits in some of the telecom

Airtech, a mobile communications group, improved 4.5p to 38.5p after agreeing a share

resume on Monday in shares of Scotswood Industries, a sedate engineering group which has transformed itself through a reverse takeover. It acquired Midas, which has a transport data

communication system, and sold its existing engineering businesses to their management. The Midas deal was clinched with the shares priced at 10p.

exchange offer, said to be worth 41.9p a share, from Remec, a Rumours of corporate action

boosted Zetters, the bingo and pools group which has made no secret that it is examining its future. The shares rose 13p to 126.5p. The company has indicated it may be split into two, with separate deals concluded for its bingo and pools businesses. There is also the possibility of new management being injected and presumably a reverse takeover.

Swan Hill, a construction group where bid talks are going on, put on 6p to 66p, and Hampden, an Irish do-it-yourself chain where J Sainsbury sits on 29.2 per cent, improved 5.5p to

Calluna, the electronics group which has banked on its Hardwall computer security system, continued to retreat after the surprise profits warning. The shares fell a further 1.5p to 15.5p. They started Tuesday at 27p.

SEAQ VOLUME: 1 billion SEAQ TRADES: 84,986 GILTS INDEX: 1/a

Court ruling on Vaux chairman set to step down

Associate City Editor

SIR PAUL NICHOLSON is expected to step down as chair-man of the beleaguered Vaux brewing group in the next few

Vaux, which yesterday changed its name to Swallow Group, had previously suggested that Sir Paul would stay on at the Sunderland company to ensure some boardroom stability after the dramatic ousting of its chief executive and finance director earlier this month. They left after a row over plans to sell its two breweries to a management buyout

However it is believed he will step down soon and that the company has a shortlist of two potential replacements.

The sale of the group's Sunderland and Sheffield trew-exclusive negotiating period eries and the tenanted pub



Sir Paul Nicholson had been expected to stay on to ensure boardroom stability

estate to Sir Paul's brother asked for an extension to bring Private investors in Sunderland Frank for an estimated £70m is close to an agreement.

Frank Nicholson's four-week runs out on Monday but he has

the deal to fruition and this is

likely to be granted. Sir Paul may step down before the shareholders' meeting

are understood to be unhappy about the alleged £20m gap between the price being paid by Frank Nicholson and the pos-

achieved by closure and sale of the assets. Angry exchanges are expected and local observers say Sir Paul may prefer to retire early rather than face a hostile audience in the closing days of his 22-year reign as chairman. The change of the company's

name to Swallow Group follows a resolution at its annual meeting in January. The change follows the decision to sell the brewing and tenanted pubs onerations and concentrate on the Swallow Hotels operations.

Veux has been viewed as a takeover target with the highly regarded Swallow chain seen as the most valuable asset.

Whitbread and Bass have been tipped as the most likely bidders as both are keen to expand their leisure interests. Ladbroke has previously looked at the company but its £1.2bn takeover of Stakis last month has effectively ruled it out.

Synstar slip on

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

SYNSTAR, the computer services group, suffered an embarrassing stock market debut yesterday when shares in the company slipped below their issue price on their first day of

The fall comes after Synstar and its financial advisers, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, came in for intense criticism for the way they handled the flotation.

Shares in Synstar, trading on a when issued basis, closed at 158p, 7p below the price at which they were sold to institutional shareholders. This fall was despite the shares being priced at the lower end of the 155p-185p range indicated by Synstar in its prospectus.

Analysts said Synstar, which was bought by its management from the leisure and hotel group Granada in September 1997, was coming to the market before it had established a track record. They also accused CVC Capital Partners, the venture capital group which backed the buyout, of demanding too high a price.

At a share price of 158p Syn-star, which raised £90.5m in new capital from the flotation, is capitalised at £257m. At the time of the management buyout it was valued at just £89m.

Meanwhile, Morgan Stanley came under fire for refusing to send information on the flotation to City analysts. Experts who have seen Synstar's prospectus have raised questions about the company's depreciation policies and possible habilities arising from the millemium computer bug.

The whole float has been

handled in a shabby way," one

analyst said yesterday. "It's made everybody very suspicious and you can see that in the share price reaction." Outlook, this page

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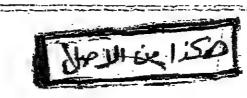
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Heavy history of undisputed woe



ELEVEN DEFEATS in 11 attempt this century at winning undisputed championships explain American contempt for British heavyweight boxing. Even the sport's most revered scribe, the late A J Liebling, could not resist a whimsical jibe, men was in for the title, British reporters were scared to retrieve a dropped pencil at ringside for fear of missing the fight.

Evander Holyfield in New York in two weeks' time he will be hoping to end a sorry tale of British disappointment and crushed ambition which goes back to December 1907, when Noah Brusso, a squat French-Canadian who had taken Tommy Burns as his fighting name, retained the only acknowledged version of the heavyweight championship with a 10th-round knockout against Gunner Moir at the National Sporting Club in London

What Burns lacked in size - he stood only 5ft 7in and weighed in around the light-heavyweight mark of 175lb - he made up for with an aggressive style that quickly accounted for the three other British hopefuls, all within five rounds.

History's denigration of Burns as a man on the run from Jack Johnson. who flatted him at Rushcutter's Bay in Sydney, is unfair. As the first truly international champion, prepared to take on anyone who could find a backer, Burns took the title to England, France, Ireland and Australia.

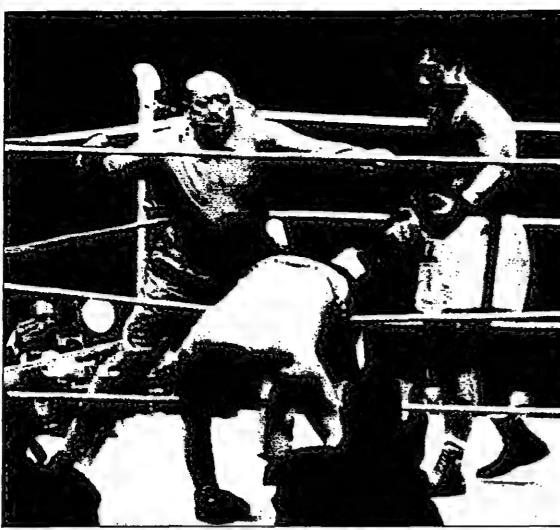
The second of his British victims, Jack Palmer, lasted only four rounds at Wonderland in London. Barely more than a month later, on 17 March 1908, Jem Roche Greland Kingdom) lasted less than a round in Dublin. When Jewey Smith went over in the fifth round of a challenge to Burns in Paris, it would be 29 years before another British heavyweight. fought for the undisputed title.

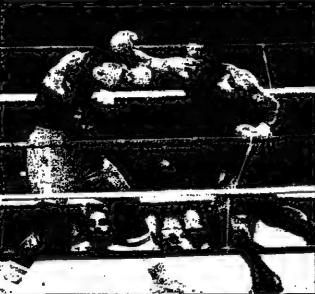
By then British heavyweights had become a standing (or prostrate if you prefer) joke in American boxing circles, personified by Phaintin' Phil Scott, who lost a chance of going in against the new undisputed champion, Joe Louis, when he cried "foul" once too often in an eliminator against Jack Sharkey.

New York boxing impresario Mike and unexpectedly good counter-Jacobs sought another "safe" opponent for Louis's first defence. The choice fell upon Tommy Farr, a difficult. "Maybe I was fooled by what durable but light-punching Welshman whose reputation had soared with victories over Ben Foord (for would run from me." the British and Empire titles), the

and Walter Neusel of Germany. Born and raised in the Welsh coalfields, so desperate for betterment that he once walked to London seeking work. Farr had fought his first 10-rounder at just 13 years old

An odd contradiction, both tough I had been hit by a truck." and a romantic, Farr's epic stand over 15 rounds, against a man who many sport. On the night of the contest a huge bonfire blazed on the mountainside near Farr's home village, Clydach Vale, and many thousands gathered around radio sets for the BBC's blow-by-blow commentary.









The best heavyweight fighters that Britain has produced this century have fared poorly against the cream of American boxers (rlockwise from left): Don Cockell is taken apart by the ferocity of Rocky Marciano in San Francisco, 1955; Muhammad Ali takes a bloody toll of Henry Cooper at Arsenal, 1966, as the champion clinically dismantled Cooper in six rounds; Wales' Tommy Fart takes Joe Louis the distance before losing on points in New York, 1937; Mike Tyson savages Frank Bruno on the way to a five-round win in Las Vegas, 1989 Daily Mirror/Allsport/Topham Pics

temporarily altered America's the viciousness of Marciano's resneering perception. Remarking many years later on the difficulties Exasperated by Scott's antics, the he found with Farr's crouching style punching, Louis thought the first of his defences to be one of the most people said before the fight," he later said, "that Tommy wasn't up to it and

To this day there are people who former world champion Max Baer, believe Farr was robbed at Yankee Stadium in New York but the amiable Welshman never claimed to have done enough. "The very mention of Louis's the pronounced it Louey) name still makes my nose bleed," he would chuckle. "The and been hardened by booth boxing. morning after the fight it felt as

If Farr was given little chance against Louis, even less hope was would come to regard as one of the held for Don Cockell when he met greatest heavyweight champions es-tablished him as a hero of British May 1955. A blown-up light-heavy-Rocky Marciano in San Francisco in appropriate in Cockell's case because of the glandular disorder that gave him a bloated look even when throughout Britsin, their attention in peak condition), he took a fearful held like no other sports event before, pounding from the most ruthless heavyweight champion in history, and the only one to retire undefeated.

The BBC's fight commentator,

peated fouling. "Marciano is one of the toughest champions who ever rubbed a foot in resin," he said, "but he has never read the rule book. He played a different sport from the one Cockell was taught. He butted unmercifully, he hit with his elbows. he hit low. A British referee would have sent him back to his corner

after three rounds." In agony from a kidney-punch in the first round, Cockeil was also hit low head-hutted, struck three times after the bell and while down. And yet the referee Frankie Brown did not issue a solitary caution. Remarkably, showing immense courage, Cockell, a former blacksmith from Battersea

Brown stopped the contest.

The British Boxing Board thought so little of Brian London's prospects against Floyd Patterson in 1959 that it ordered him not to take the con- bell to end the fourth round. test and subsequently imposed a fine of £1,100 for defiance. London, from West Hartlepool, had emulated his and 75 seconds later Cooper was a father, Jack, in becoming British heavyweight champion but he was not equipped to provide Patterson fied ringsiders screamed for the conwith more than a work-out before test to be stopped.

going over in the 11th round. One punch, a left hook, resurrected Henry Cooper's ailing career and turned him into a folk hero. Light by modern heavyweight standards. Cooper had eight defeats on his 36fight professional record when he

ner but Farr's stubborn resistance Eamonn Andrews, was shocked by in London, went nine rounds before was matched with the colourful contender Cassius Clay at Wembley Stadium in June 1963. Cut-prone. Cooper was already leaking blood when he dropped Clay just before the

A mysteriously split glove gave Clay time in which to clear his head gory wreck, his face so savaged by Clay's slashing punches that horri-

However, the memory of that one blow encouraged Cooper's supporters to believe he was in with a shout when challenging Clay (by then Muhammad All) for the undisputed championship at the Arsenal football ground in May 1966.

Ali's third defence, after taking the title from Sonny Liston and beating him in a re-match, proved to be an anti-climax. Taking no chances with the natural power in Cooper's left arm, Ali ripped into the Londoner's fragile features to win on a sixth-round stoppage.

Barely two mouths later, shortly after England defeated West Germany in the 1966 World Cup final, Ali gave London his second shot at the title. A gross mis-match, it lasted only three rounds. "Oob, he's quick," a bemused London muttered in his

champion - impressive build, strength and courage - all but efficiency in punching and, most im-portantly, desire. Ali's third defence of the championship he sensationally regained from George Foreman was against Bugner in Kuala

Lampur on 1 July 1975. Again (he had been earlier outpointed by Ali in a non-title bout) Bugner could not stir himself sufficiently to give the champion a problem. "At least Phil Scott fainted," an American observer said.

When a Yorkshire born ex-paratrooper, Richard Dunn, was brought forward to challenge Ali for the title in Munich on 25 May 1976, the tale of the tape showed that he was at least a match for Ali in physical dicommentator thought them to look Steele, called a halt in the fifth. about equal. "Yeah, from the ankles down," somebody else said. Utterly outclassed, sent over five times,

Dunn was stopped in the sixth round. Frank Bruno's elevation to the status of heavyweight contender was a masterpiece of promotion. With his sculpted frame and a record beefed up by astute matchmaking, Bruno become the World Boxing Associa-

The Hungarian-born Joe Bugner stinct for surviving a crisis. This was had almost all it takes to be a world already clear from violent losses to James "Bonecrusher" Smith and Tim Witherspoon when holding a points advantage, and it left Bruno vulnerable to the terrible force of Mike Tyson's punching when they came together for the undisputed title in Las Vegas on 25 May 1989.

With hindsight, Tyson was on the slide that would lead to a sensational defeat by James "Buster" Douglas but he was still far too powerful for Bruno, who actually shook the champion with a hook in the first round. The plan was for Bruno to make it a rough fight, as Holyfield did in the two contests that finally exposed Tyson's limitations.

It did not work. Deducted a point for a foul blow, Bruno failed to win a round and was being battered on mensions. An American television the ropes when the referee, Richard

Self-serving fragmentation of the heavyweight championship masks a rarity of the contest between Lewis and Holyfield at Madison Square Garden in New York Lewis, the World Boxing Council title-holder against Holyfield, who brings the World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation belts. looked the part and would eventually As Don King puts it: "for the unmitigated, unadulterated, undistion champion, but he lacked the in- puted heavyweight crown."

Misnomers, sunken launches and rank stupidity

nice man. And he was telling me all about the investment which had turned his family husiness into one of the country's leading leisure resorts.

Seventy-five years earlier his great-grandfather, Herbert Potter, had established Britain's first holiday camp. But that, he explained with a darkening countenance, was then, and this was now. In recent years, he added, they'd built a theatre, a gym and an indoor bowling venue. Work had started on the construction of a hotel. So they were, abrunning a holiday camp. They and any idea that it was still a iday camps please.



MIKE ROWBOTTOM

holiday camp, just because it had coachioads of holidaysolutely and definitively, not makers arriving, was very wide of the mark and unwelwere running a leisure centre, come. So no references to hol-

was perceived by all at Potter's Leisure Resort as another step towards the bright new dawn. It was unfortunate that Steve Rider, introducing BBC TV coverage of the event, should

mention the "h" and "c" words. It was also unfortunate that one paper - this one, actually - should employ the phrase were the best British athletes in "Hi-di-hi" in a beadline.

But then, what did they really expect? And what's wrong with being a holiday camp? As a small exercise in attempted news management, this was not an outstanding success. But then it is a tricky area. A few years ago, in an effort y expressed.

to revamp its fading image

Hosting the World Bowls and appeal to the young the BAF's executive chairman, was the structure of prize bright young things - manu-(now deceased) held a press launch – on a river launch.

CENTURY OF BRITISH ATTEMPTS TO WIN THE

UNDISPUTED WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE

10.2.08 Tommy Burns v Jack Palmer (Wonderland, London) KO 4th

Muhammad Ali v Henry Cooper (Arsenal, London)

Muhammad All v Joe Bugner (Kucia Lumpur)

Muhammad All v Brian London (Euris Court, London) NO 3th

2.12.07 Tommy Burns v Gunner Motr (NSC. Landon)

16.5.55 Rocky Marciano v Don Cockell (San Francisco)

17.3.08 Tomary Burns v Jem Roche (Dublin)

18.4.08 Tommy Barns v Jewey Smith (Paris)

3.8.37 Joe Louis w Tommy Farr (New York)

25.5.76 Muhammad All v Richard Dunn (Munich)

25.5.89 Mike Tyson v Frank Bruno (Los Vegas)

As we bobbed on the Thames. the new scheme was explained to us. It was a ranking system, sponsored by TSB bank, which mances on an overall points basis, to create a picture of who - in absolute terms, of course.

absolute terms Hungarian scoring tables, of the type used to convert decathlon performances into as a torch-lighting new venture_ well, doubts were swift-

The smile on the face of the

Championships last month British Athletic Federation Professor Peter Radford, became strained. He turned to the man on his left, Roger Black, observing with some levity that, as things stood, Black was only Britain's second-best 400 metres runner and was would evaluate athletic perfor- trailing well behind some of the hurdlers and isvelin throwers

KO 1st

KO 5th

Pts 15th

TKO 9th

Presumably, Black was then expected to say how he would redouble his efforts in order to see his name rise proudly up the TSB rankings. Black, howpoints, were to be employed. It ever, was not amused. His rewas an anorak's wet dream, but sponse was brief and, for the purposes of the bright new dawn, unhelpful. Stick it up your rankings, in effect.

What, someone then asked.

was explained that there was no prize money. As such. At all. At which point the TSB rankings launch, already holed below the waterline, became setting the media agenda figdead in the water. Among other doomed

launches I cherish in my memory was the techno-music fashion show put on in the terview limit imposed during a stupendously unsuitable setting of Bisham Abbey to publicise England team kit and Cup final, raised him high in leisurewear spin-offs for the the estimation of myself and a 1994 World Cup finals. Which, number of colleagues present. as you may recall, England failed to reach.

young things gyrating under looking beyond the weekend's Glory be, it was as an umbrelthe ancient beams in their final to the European Cup- la in the face of a tidal wave.

money for this new scheme? It factured courtesy of Far East sweated labour - I almost feel glad England didn't make it.

Alongside misconceived initiatives, doomed attempts at ure prominently in my own personal ranking list. Graeme Le Saux's scornful

defiance of a five-minute in-Chelsea press conference before last season's Littlewoods

Stremuous, and fruitless, efforts were also made in an at-When I recall the bright tempt to stop questioners

week. But, for wishful thinking, you couldn't beat the US Olympic Committee, which set up a press conference with ice skater Tonya Harding before the 1994 Winter Games with the proviso that no questions were to be asked about her alleged role in a pre-Games hammer attack that left her rival, Nancy Kerrigan, with an injured knee. It was like expecting Basil Fawlty not to

mention the war In preparation for the expected media onslaught, someone had provided Harding with a standard response: "That is not an appropriate question."

THE INTERPENDENT

SPORT/23

Cotton is

poised to

take key

role again

FRAN COTTON could return as a major figure in English rugby if his Reform Group pushes

through a vote of no confidence in the current Rugby Football

Gloucester's Gaul is the healer

That infamous Kingsholm spirit is primed for a revival under Saint-Andre. By Chris Hewett

THEY STILL exist, those die-hard Kingsholm traditionalists who regard a meal out in Cheltenham as dangerously cosmopolitan and arm themselves with a passport before venturing into the Forest of Dean. You can find them on any Saturday match afternoon, gathered together at the back of the Shed with their Cherry and White shirts, their effigies of François Pienaar and Will Carling and their rose finted memories of Tell siev, Gaddy, Burto and Fids. the time-honoured fashion. "Never mind the ball, lads, get on with the game."

But even they are beginning to get the modern message, to grow used to the idea of a team inhabited by New Zealanders, Australians and Samoans as well as home-reared hardnuts from Matson, Coney Hill and Longlevens. They have seen Steve Ojomoh, once a Bath man through and through, cross the West Country Rubicon to elbow Simon Devereux, a rough-and-ready handful from the local Spartans club, out of the first-choice back row. They have witnessed the emergence of Terry Fanohua, a South Sea Islander, as a popular folk hero in the grand manner of Dick Smith, Johnny Watkins and Dig-Fer Morris. Apart from Lonhers, who remain far beyond the pale, Kingsholm now welcomes all-comers.

Which is why the sudden and wholly unexpected appointment of Philippe Saint-Andre as chub coach does not quite signify the end of the world as we know it. Saint-Andre may have landed in the Cotswolds from Planet France and he may communicate many of his ideas via a heavily personalised form of Gallic semaphore, but his instirctive grasp phore, our mis insurctive grasp of rugby's abstractions — hon-our pride regetherness, esprit de corps—állows him to speak Globiester's language without necessarily knowing the ingo. Having wor the hearts of the

least, be a piece of gateau. But then, Saint-Andre's immediate predecessor also cozed passion and commitment from every pore and those honest to goodness qualities failed to save Richard Hill from the burn's rush treatment. Hill was sacked a little under a fortnight ago, not just because he had failed to cement a place in the top six of the Allied Dunbar Premiership, but because a side assumed to be the closestknit unit in English rugby had simply stopped playing, either for him or for each other. The reason? Well, that remains a mystery not least to Hill himself.

at the moment we do not even

have Stransky for Leicester.

The South African outside-half

at the centre of an increasing-

ly farcical debate over World

Cup eligibility – he may be able

to find touch, but he cannot find

any proof of the existence of an

alleged English-born grandfa-

ther - has pulled out of this

afternoon's Tetley's Bitter Cup

quarter-final at Richmond with

knee trouble. His withdrawal

leaves the Tigers' double am-

bitions seriously exposed, es-

pecially in the light of Austin

Healey's on-going brouhaha

with the Rugby Football Union.

pended by his club for treading

The loss of Healey, sus-

y Server

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Dave Sims (left), the captain who embodies the Cherry and White ethic, and Philippe Saint-Andre, the Frenchman charged with satisfying the Shed's ardour Empics

There was a degree of resentment, inside the playing squad as well as on the terraces, at the coach's proactive role in shipping Phil Greening, another born-and-bred Spartan, out to Sale. In addition, Hill's relationship with Dave Sims, the chib captain, grew un-Kinesholm faithful over the easy to the extent that Sims past 23 months, the capture of was widely and authoritative-

a move to Bristol. But any suggestion of a dressing-room split along geographical lines - the Gloucester boys against the imports - is wide of the mark True, Neil McCarthy, the former Bath hooker who recently supplanted Greening as England's official number two No 2, expressed his surprise and sadness at Hill's demise, but a number of local products were also close to the coach and have privately questioned the wisdom of terminating his

Sims, the 29-year-old oneclub lock who embodies the Gloucester ethic more com-

on the face of Kevin Putt dur-

ing the recent Leicester-Lon-

don Irish Premiership match,

was a serious enough setback

in itself, but Stransky's ab-

sence has forced the Midlan-

ders into a major back division

realignment for their perilous

date at the Madejski Stadium.

Jamie Hamilton plays at

scrum-half, with Pat Howard

moving from inside centre to

stand-off and Jon Stuart lining

man short in the centre, thanks

to Allan Bateman's hamstring

problems, but Jason Wright

should at least bring some All

Richmond are themselves a

up in midfield.

contract.

STRANSKY FOR England? Just By CHRIS HEWETT

pletely than any Cherry and clear of relegation or up against Benton, the scrum-half – had communication from the selection of the "all for one and White forward since Mike it in a cup match against qualgone toe to toe and claw to claw tors, if nothing else, But that's one for all philosophy of rugby. Teague, maintains a diplomatic silence on the subject of Hill's debeen short-changed throughthat worries me, because it has dence isn't there. We need to

it in a cup match against quality opposition, there was a togetherness that always took. Zealand teams during the parture, but he openly accepts us through. There was never that the Kingsholm faithful have any fear, any panic. We just knew that on a big Saturday aiout the course of a deeply dis- ternoon at Kingsholm, we could appointing campaign. "We've mix it with the very best and get been playing as individuals and a result. Right now, that confi-

gone toe to toe and claw to claw with a variety of crack New not an excuse for some of our re- cup quarter-final day is as good summer and emerged not only with a full complement of limbs, but with reputations enhanced. It should have been the making of them. So what happened?

"Good question," replies Sims, whose own Test perfor-

mances against the All Blacks in Auckland and the Spring-

boks in Cape Town were among the few stomachable English contributions on that grisly expedition. "I think perhaps a few of us felt a bit low, a little disappointed at not making the England squad for the autumn internationals, Between us, we did a job for our country in

cent performances at chib level __a day as any. This afternoon We all learned a premendous amount during the tour, but we their first game in anger against haven't made it count. We have the hated Harlequins, whose to look at ourselves and ask the Premiership victory, at Kingreasons why." If the required solutions the curtain on Hill's bold at-

tors, if nothing else. But that's one for all" philosophy of rugby,

Saint-Andre's Gloucester play

sholm a fortnight ago ran down

century before the dawning of

starts the match on the bench.

under a rotation system de-

signed to keep he and his fellow

locks. Rob Fidler and Mark

Cornwell, in gainful employ-

ment. "Quins have made a habit

of coming down here and turn-

ing us over and it's getting on

our nerves a bit. We have a lot

to prove, both to ourselves and

"Philippe can help us do

that, but only if we help him. A

few signs of the old together-

our supporters.

the 21st.

were beyond Hill's grasp, can tempt to bring the old Cherry with the right answers? "Why shouldn't he?" asks Sims. "Philippe has earned the respect he now enjoys here for this one," say Sims, who and he's an inspirational figure, both on the field and in the dressing-room. Spirit and commitment have always been important ingredients in French rugby and Philippe understands how essential it is to get us playing as a team, as a 15, once more. To my mind he has a tremendous amount to offer. and I've no doubt that this squad will give him everything

he asks." If ever there was a time to rediscover the musketeerish

Union Management Board. Management Board and return as the head of an emergency board, along with another former England captain, Bill Beaumont. Cotton, the president of the

Reform Group and a former England captain and Lions' manager, resigned as the vicechairman of the RFU Management Board last April. Now the reformers have called a special general meeting that will attack Brian Baister's board and call for them to quit. Only the RFU president Peter Trunkfield and its new chief executive Francis Baron are excepted to

escape the reformers' axe. Also heading for the exit door are England's International Rugby Board representatives, John Jeavons-Fellows and Malcohn Phillips.

The Reform Group accuses the board of "crass manage ment, turching from crisis to crisis and bringing the game into ridicule and disrepute". It has collected the required 100 signatures and hopes for the backing of the majority of the RFU's Its potential board would

comprise Trunkfield, Baron, Cotton, Beaumont and four others to serve until the RFU's July annual general meeting. Martyn Thomas, the chair-

man of the Reform Group, bas issued a manifesto stating: "The Five Nations fiasco led to people throughout the world to call for heads to roll."

Thomas lists an eight-point criticism: "1, The Board have fought the Five Nations and lost; 2, Fought the IRB and lost; 3, Fallen out with the organisers of the European Cup; 4, Pandered to the owner clubs on League structure, regardless of the Leagues below; 5, Put the financial future of all chubs at risk: 6. Sacrificed the needs of the grass-roots clubs to satisfy a few owners' appetites; 7, Presided over the reduction in numbers playing the game; 8,

Brought the game into public ridicule and humiliation. Thomas added: "We have been let down by the Management Board, Sanity dignity and decency must be restored. We need leadership and people with sure that the game is properly

run and not lurching from cri-"The whole city will turn out sis to crisis. "We owe it to ourselves to bring the management of the game back to rugby people.

This is a sad but historic moment in the annals of rugby. "Never have the clubs felt such a common aim to seek a special general meeting over the Union's affairs. The request comes from every level of

the game below Premiership One, not just the jumior clubs. The plan was to dovetail the meeting with a scheduled special general meeting, called by the RFU in Birmingham on 28 March, which is being asked to approve reforms of the RFU

Council and committees. But the Reform Group request is too late, leading to a later meeting at high cost to the Union's strained coffers.

In Scotland, the Glasgov Hawks coach Iain Russell has urged his team to rediscover heir killer instinct or forfeit their chance of winning the Premiership. Hawks face Watsonians at Anniesland for the second time in a fortnight today, with Russell still frustrated in the

wake of the 9-9 draw at Myreside. "It was a very annoying experience for us because of the number of scoring opportunities we threw away. We created enough openings to have won by at least 20 points but we failed to accept any of them," he said. "If the same thing happens this weekend we will almost certainly be out of the running for the championship."

Philippe understands how essential it is to get us playing as a team, as a 15, once more. He has a tremendous amount to offer'

never been our way," he said this find it again." week. "Somehow, somewhere, always drew us close together and made us strong. "It's difficult to put a finger

on the reasons why, but we haven't been a real team for title of course, but they looked quite a while; not in the practically unbeatable on their Gloucester sense, anyway. Whenever we found ourselves mud. After all, Sims and six of in trouble in the past, perhaps his colleagues - four tight for- pretty difficult circumstances having to win a game to stay wards plus Ojomoh and Scott

proceedings. The big New

Zealander played for Otago be-

fore deciding to take the Eng-

lish shilling at the start of last

season and as John Leslie, his

fellow "scarfie" from Dunedin.

showed at Twickenham last

weekend, they know a bit about

midfield play down there in

Certainly the Reading-based

Londoners need something to

revive a flagging season, "I ex-

pect us to improve significantly

on our last performance against

Leicester, in the Premiership

just over a month ago," said John

Kingston, the Richmond coach,

yesterday. "In fact, I will be very

the South Island.

The spiritual fall has indeed we've lost some of the spirit that been precipitate. Six months ago Gloucester were one of the coming sides; their abject away form would prevent them staking a meaningful claim for the own rectangle of blood-stained

think it's impregnable."

Neither is Richmond's, it

appears: Leicester put 50

points past Kingston's side in

Premiership victories this sea-

son. But the wear and tear of

fighting a war on three fronts

- is certain to weaken the

Tigers in body, if not in spirit,

and the return of a pumped-up

Craig Quinnell to the opposition

ranks this afternoon is the last

intriguing derby between Wasps

and London Irish at Loftus Road

Tomorrow's ties throw up an

thing they want to see.

league, cup and Five Nations

and we feit we deserved some

Stransky's injury adds to Tigers' troubles Black-style physicality to the happen. Outstanding as the battle for physical supremacybe-imminent waiting. Rogers proceedings. The big New Leicester defence is, I don't tween Newcastle and Saracens, came through last week's the holders, on Typeside.

Wasps have gone into reshuffle mode as they continue their pursuit of a second the course of two clear-cut successive Twickenham final: they run Joe Worsley on the open-side flank for the suspended Paul Volley and reintroduce Kenny Logan and Rob Henderson to their back division. There is also a front-row place for Adam Black, who reolaces Darren Molloy on the loose bead.

But the most intriguing selection, or non-selection, concerns Peter Rogers, who is increasingly being seen by the Hall's financial withdrawal Welsh as a Five Nations prop in from north-east rugby. "We've

February next year

who withdrew his appeal and is

Wales A victory over Ireland with no ill effects, but Dick Best has given Rob Hardwick the tight-head position for Irish and named Kris Fullman on the bench. If Graham Henry, the Welsh national coach, wanted to see his favourite uncapped prop in action before naming his side to face France in Paris next weekend, Best has done him no favours whatsoever.

Newcastle, far more secure on the pitch than off it these days, would dearly love a shot at a cup semi-final to take their minds off the trauma of Sir John

cently, what with Five Nations commitments and all the uncertainty over our future, but the spirit in the squad is excellent," said Gary Armstrong, their scrum-half. Both sides are likely to go in at full strength, although there is a doubt over Stuart Legg, the Newcastle full-back.

been a bit shabby in training re-

There is no doubt over Jason Leonard, who won his 68th England cap at Twickenham last Saturday. His twisted ankle definitely keeps him out of the Harlequins side for today's tie at Gloucester. That will ease his Andy Deacon's load as he returns for the home

Reading ready for change of luck Williams in the clear - for now

READING, BACK from their European Indoor challenge last weekend, will feel that they have not had too much going for them in recent weeks.

But home advantage on their water-based pitch might just give them the edge this weekend. However, without their captain Jon Wyatt and Manpreet Kochar, they may still find it tough in today's Premier League fixture against leaders Cannock Cannock themselves will be without their leading goal-scorer, Bobby

HOCKEY

BY BILL COLWILL

Crutchley, who has netted 28 times in 16 league games. Struggling Hounslow travel to Canterbury today and make the journey across London to Southgate for a cup game tomorrow but will be missing Olympic gold medallist Jon

Potter for both encounters. Reading entertain Canterbury in the quarter-finals of the EHA Cup tomorrow while holders Cannock return home to have lost their way recently, face the only non-Premier club while Chelmsford entertain left in the competition, Lewes.

Division One leaders Surbiton and Chelmsford will be looking to put points on the board before their South African players fly out tomorrow night for the Test series against Australia. Although they only expect to miss games on 7 March they will be tired on their return so it is essential to avoid slipping up tomorrow.

placed Barford Tigers who

Surbiton are at home to fifth-

surprised if that does not and another hairy-chested

newly-promoted Eastcote. Jane Smith, with six goals in

Slough's 8-2 win against Glasgow Western, got the English club champions off to a fine start in the European Indoor Club Championship in Glasgow vesterday. Slough, with a depleted squad, never looked back after Smith gave them the lead in the third minute. Champions Russelsheimer edged home in the other pool match. against CPCS Moscow, 5-4.

DERBY STORM'S England in-BASKETBALL ternational, Yorick Williams, was yesterday cleared to play in the BY RICHARD TAYLOR

end-of-season play-offs by a joint Both were initially banned appeal panel, but only at the cost of a further suspension hanging until the end of the season by the English Basketball Association over his head until the end of and Budweiser League for their Williams, though, will miss the role in the fighting that forced League Trophy final against Derby's game at Chester on 31 Manchester Giants in two January to be abandoned after weeks' time, as will his Ameri-28 seconds. Although Williams' can team-mate Rico Alderson, appeal was rejected, the sus-

pension was shortened until the

end of the regular league season

on 5 April. But the appeal panel

imposed a five-game ban on Tel Aviv is never to be relished, Williams, suspended until 29 February next year.

Despite losing their joint leading scorers, fourth-placed Derby are 16 points ahead of the ninthplaced team with nine games left, and are certain of reaching the play-off quarter-finals.

Corey Jackson, of Newcastle Eagles, has replaced Alderson in tonight's North team for the All Star Game against the South at the Newcastle Arena.

The prospect of an away

and melt away." The same qualities will be needed tonight, when Ian Whyte and Neville Austin replace John game in front of 8,000 Israelis in Amaechi and Andy Betts,

but England can relax a little for

tonight's final European Champ-

ionship semi-final group game.

The gritty 61-56 victory over Be-

larus at Crystal Palace on

Wednesday means that Eng-

land do not have to pre-qualify

for the 2001 Championship, and

their coach, Laszlo Nemeth,

said: "For once we didn't go soft

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Earth is ready to get back in hunt

AS RICHARD DUNWOODY cir- BY RICHARD EDMONDSON cled belatedly in a helicopter above Warwick last Saturday it was quite appropriate that he weighing room as "the vul-

Jimmy McCarthy took advantage of Dunwoody's tardy third Saturday in succession inally meant for other riders.

The previous week, Mc-Carthy's then friend, Norman the ability to win." Williamson, with whom he shares a house, had succumbed on the morning of the Tote Gold Trophy with a cricked

RICHARD EDMONDSON Nap: Earthmove (Haydock 2.45) (Kempton 4.10)

neck and surrendered the winning ride on Decoupage. Seven days earlier, Jamie Osborne had relinquished the seat on the deeply temperamental Him Of Praise at Uttoxeter, allowing "the Saturday boy", as he has also become known, to initiate his run. Punters may now consider a pattern is developing.

Him Of Praise returns to the racecourse this afternoon at Havdock, for the Greenalls Grand National Trial, and Osborne has again allowed his No 2 at Oliver Sherwood's Upper Lambourn yard to grapple with the gelding's

"Jamie says he's missed the wedding and he doesn't want to to break up a winning partner-

Richard Dunwoody, he's a pershould be looking down on the fectly good understudy and jockey they now know in the he'll do the job if given the chance."

This afternoon's assignment is hardly the easiest of tasks either as Him Of Praise regulararrival to partner Behrajan to ly gives the impression of being a valuable victory. It was the part of an equine care-in-thecommunity programme, "The that McCarthy had success- horse can be a bit of a monkey, fully substituted on horses orig- Sherwood concedes, "but he does tend to come to himself at this time of the year. He's got

Lord Gyllene, the 1997 National winner, will not be among those trying to prevent that eventuality as the soft ground means he misses the race. There are other dangers, how-

Eudipe, who has enticed Tony McCoy to Lancashire, will be foremost among them as he also represents the Martin Pipe stable which has been so fortunate at this circuit. The seven-year-old was ridden quite beautifully to victory by the champion jockey at Sandown last time, but the twolegged part of the operation was subsequently banned for use of the whip. The way things are going, McCoy may make a stop locally and swap his baton for

Ken Dodd's tickling stick. General Wolfe, the top-weight in this the richest handicap chase of the season thus far, won here on his reappearance but then scrambled his cells at Uttoxeter. It should pay to wait to see if they have fallen back into place.

The most interesting contestant is EARTHMOVER attend the funeral," Sherwood (nap 2.45). He won the Foxsaid yesterday. "He could have hunters' Chase at the Chel- Monaughty Man has managed ridden him but he doesn't want tenham Festival with some one success in 43 runs, but, if contest, and he cannot be sup- Henderson, whose best season facility almost 12 months ago, but has since failed to complete This run has been good for over far easier courses. It may Jimmy and his confidence and, be that these demanding obwhile he's never going to have stacles will again concentrate



King's Banker and Mick Fitzgerald clear the last fence from Native Player on the way to an impressive success at Kempton yesterday

the mind. It is worth remem- back either of these horses, you bering that on one set of statistics at least, the former hunter-chaser is still considered the superior of Teeton Mill and

If Him Of Praise is the monkey at Haydock then the gorilla colony is formed by Quixall Crossett and Monaughty Man in the preceding contest. Both are trained by Ted Caine and

both are useless. Quixall's unblemished (by victory that is) record is comon his first four outings this sea-

are very fortunate to have betting facilities in your compound. Over at Kempton, one of the

Plant in I'CA

leading primates is Pridwell, who brings his enigmatic tendencies to the Rendlesham Hurdle. More reliable here is Ocean Hawk (4.40).

The Sunbury card is poorly populated considering the goodies on offer and the Racing Post Chase is hardly a stampede with just nine runners going to post. Challenger anything, he boasts the poorer ported while there is a courserecent form. He was pulled up and-distance winner at the top ners, the similarity between son, and also put his hooves in sible on a day of madness and Man does not stop at their the air at Ayr last time. If you back Dr Leunt (next best 4.10). owner, Tim Collins.

Banker's Remittance reminder

NICK HENDERSON notched his half-century for the season at Kempton yesterday as King's Banker, carrying the colours of one of the trainer's best chasers, Remittance Man, took

the Manor Novices' Chase. The eight-year-old put in a convincing round of fencing under Mick Fitzgerald and had equine barmy in the feature Player at the line. According to came in 1986-87 with 67 winof his form in the field. Be sen- King's Banker and Remittance from Call My Guest in the

"This horse was desperately unlucky last year and was a bit like Remittance Man," he said. "Remittance Man was . surprise on his jumping debut unlucky and it took me nearly at Market Rasen. The 25-1 two years to win a hurdle race

"This horse is entered in the Royal & SunAlliance but he could run in the National Hunt posed of 84 runs and no wins. Du Luc flies the flag for the seven lengths in hand of Native Chase. He jumped well and he travelled well.

Fitzgerald missed his remaining two rides after aggravating a neck injury in a fall handicap hurdle, but expects to ride today.

Julies Jewel will make an Satellite, digital and selectumph Hurdle after springing a chance, trained a few yards from the track by Michael Chapman, showed great tenac-

ity to land the juvenile hurdle. Julies Jewel has been a regular on the all-weather circuit this winter. We all backed him today - we thought he had a good chance," Chapman said. "It's not often that you can say

on the all-weather.

ambitious assault on the Tri- ed cable subscribers will be able to enjoy every race at the Cheltenham Festival. The 4 Extra channel will screen all 20 races from the meeting, as well as showing reviews of the previous day's action from 6am.

The Cheltenham Festival entry The Outback Way has been purchased by the Winning Line for an undisclosed sum and transferred to Venetia Williams's stable. The mine-year-old has scored three times this season a horse has been prepared for for David Wintle and holds entries in the Mildmay Of Flete and Grand Annual Chases.

LINGFIELD

1.35 Melody Queen 2.10 Forty Forte 2.40 Aljaz 3.15 Refuse To Lose 3.45 Lycian 4.20 Maichik GOING: Standard. STALLS: Inside except 7m - outside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low best up to 1m, especially for 61. Equitrack surface; left-hand, starp undulating course.

Course is SE of town on B2028. Lingfield station (served by London, Victoria) adjoins course. ADMISSION: One enclosure ETO, CAR PARK: Club £3; remainder free. FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

III LEADING THAINERS: G L Moore 94-681 (126%), R Hannot 45/379 (1257A), M. Johnsson 48-22 (1794), O. Kullman, 13-323 (1379A) LEADING JOCKEYS: A Clark 78-614 (12.7%), J Wester 69-314 (22%), S Sanders 65-563 (11.5%), R Cochrane 57-353 (16.1%). FAVOURITES: NS-220 (127%) BLINKERED FIRET TIME NONE.

1.35 TAURUS CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) 12,750 added 3YO 1m

10-34; MELODY OLESIN (14) (MT) K Barle (14) 40-612 THOMAS HENRY (4) (C) JS Moore 93. __P P Marphy (3) 4 -2564 SHABAASH (4) (C) P Howing 8 t3 ______ J Outes 3 1-1652 DREAM ON ME (16) (CD) G L Moore 8 8 _____ J Remning 7 443216 NICHOLAS MISTRESS (12) (C) P Exams 80 ... C Cogan (7) 2 -7 declared -RETTINGS S-2 December Decided, 7-2 Maring Comme, 4-1 Thomas Heavy, 6-1 est, 7-4 Warte Reds, 10-1 Hickories Waters, 14-1 My Storm

FORM VERDICT carrying top weight, is still meeting her rivals on better terms than she would in a hendicao. Course and distance winner Dream On Me may prove her biggest rival.

2.10 PISCES MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (F) £2,750 added 3YO 1m D. CALLIDAT SEVENTEEN (140) P D'Arcy 90. ... D Hayden (7) 4 033 PARTE PRIMA (11) S Ketilevell 9 0........... R FitzPatrick (5) 3

- I decimal -BETTING: 7-4 Forty Forte, 5-2 Lady Irana, 3-1 James Dec, 9-2 Perte Prime,

FORM VERDICT

Although he disappointed lest time, JAMES DEE has shown live level of form on furl and Pionesand to win a race of this neture and he could be better value than Forty Forte in what could easily end up a tactical battle between the nair.

2.40 INSIDE TRACK RACING CLUB H'CAP (CLASS D) £5,250 added 6f

3:221 MERKARRAS (2) (CD) 9 Chapman 5 10 4 (Ser) A Cultuma 6 22264 ANOKATO (1) (CD) Mis N Microlley 59 TO _____ P McCabe 5 V 8 324336 MALCHIK (8) P Howing 8 2 ____ 32-508 ELLWAY PRINCE (11) (CD) Mrs N Macauloy 4 9 3 5 - 19064 JOHN BOWDLER MUSIC (11) (CO) M Johnston 4 9 2 6 10/202 ACRD TEST (2) (CD) M A Buckley 4 9 1 R Flezhalde (5) 1 8 00200 BARITONE (15) (D) S Ketlevel 584 R Wicston (3) 4 V

- 6 declared = BETTING: 5-2 Mukayab, 7-2 Krystal Max, 4-1 John Bowder Music, 7-1 Elitary Prince, 8-1 Acid Test, 10-1 Anakato, 13-1 Aljuz, Berlians

FORM VERDICT The much-improved Makemab should make a bold bid to defy

his penalty for Thursday's success despite the outside draw. but this does look a bit more competitive. Today's C&D is ideal for ELLWAY PRINCE, who is back on a decent mark judged on the form he was showing here at the end of last year and has a low draw today.

3.15 WINTER DERBY TRIAL STAKES (CLASS B) £15,000 added 1m 2f

1054-6 PUNISHMENT (38) (D) K Curringham-Brown 8 9 7

THESE TALLILAN MELLE (11) (CII) IN LEGITATION IS IN 2 ___T G Nicleughlin S = 6 declared =

SETTING: 5-4 Retain To Lose, 9-2 Pagnitz, 5-1 Panishment, 6-1 Pas De ires, 7-1 Talluich Bolle, 12-1 Orsey FORM VERDICT

This looks good for REFUSE TO LOSE, who is the leading performer to have run on the AW this winter. Neither of his man rivals on form, Punishment or Pegnitz have run here, while the other that have a lot to find on the book.

3.45 ARENA ON LINE SERVICES HANDICAD (CLASS C) £9,000 added 1m

486121 ITALIAN SYMPHONY (10) (CO) P Evans 5 10 0... 0-1300 THREADNEEDLE (10) (CD) K Burke 69 11 N Calling (5) 3 -20122 TOPTON (21) (C) P Howing 5 9 4 ____ __ __ J Quien 1 E 7 22-361 BARBASON (7) (CO) G L Moore 781 __ R Britised (7) 4 9 -0 decrees -

BETTING: 3-1 Italian Symphony, 7-2 Lycies, 9-2 Puzziement, 7-1 Terrandominia, 8-1 Topton, Hartmann, 16-1 Markin, Hartmann FORM VERDICT

This return to Lingfield will out THREADNEEDLE who looks sure to make a bold bid to make every post a winning one. Lycian, who will also appreciate today's return to Equitrack. and impressive CSD wanter Watvilla look the pair he has to

4.20 RAPPORTEUR HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,500 added 3YO 1m 2f

CO-53 LUCKY NEWO (25) C Bretain 93.....T Spraise 8 7 000- CABLE MEDIA GIRL (113) \$ Kettewel 82.................. M Fenton 7 - B declared -

BETTING: 9-4 Azhaem, 7-2 Rad Venus, 4-1 Miss Take, 9-2 Locky Nemo. 8-1 Maichill., 10-1 Brende Dec. 25-1 Little Henry, 33-1 Cable Media Girl FORM VERDICT

A fairly unrespring finele with question marks against a lot of the runners. First-time birdiers helped AZIHAAM show the ability on the track she has shown at home when winning here three weeks ago and she has been found a decent opporturity to build on that today.

MUSSELBURGH

1.50 Celestial Key 2.20 Dasoit 2.50 invest Wisely 3.25 Coolaw 4.00 Uncle Bert 4.30 Dorans Way (nb) 5.00 Christiansted

GOING: Firm (Good to Firm in places).

Right-hand ovel course with tight turns.

Course is 5rd E of Edinburgh on A1, Bus link from Edinburgh station 5rd. ADMISSION: CAU 512; Grandstand & Paddock 57

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRANSPER M Hasseand (27-24 (77%), I H Johnson 20-116 (172%), P Montaith 16-92 (174%), C Parter 9-59 (53%), E LEADING JOCKEYS: A Dobbin 18-107 (16.8%), P Carberry 15-63 (283%), B Storey 14-143 (18%), P Niver 13-72 (181%). II FAVOURITIES: 119-291 (409%). ILLONG DISTANCE PUNNERS: lesspite (150) has been sort

BUNKERED FIRST TIME: Regar (150), Stock Weatel (220), Three

1.50 SAINTS & SINNERS CLUB OF SCOTLAND
MAJORN HUPDLE (E) (DW 1) 23,500 2m

P SHOTHER SERTIE (14) D Robertson 7 11 7 Mr C R Water (7)
(2) CELESTIAL INSY (USA) (25) M Lohnston 9 11 7. P Niver
(60225 LAYIK (133) V Thompson 6 11 7. Mr M Thompson
(00-096 REGAR (23) I Farguson 7 11 7. D Perker 8
22-00 THUNDERHEART (22) R Alan 8 11 7. D Perker 8
(42) MARSOL (119) P Mortant 6 11 2. C McComment (3)
(40) EMPIRE GOLD (USA) (51) A Turnel 4 10 11 Mr C Ree
(51) PROSPER (729) P S McEner 4 10 11 Mr D Niversit 9
(629) PS McEner 4 10 11 Mr D Niversit 9
(63) PS McEner 4 10 11 Mr D Niversit 9
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(66) PS Mr D Nive

9 Abdiesel --9 Abdiesel -BETTING: 5-4 Celestial Key, 11-4 Empire Gold, 4-1 Leylk, 10-1 Them-derheart, Marisol, 12-1 Fred's in The Know, 15-1 Regar, 33-1 others FORM VERDICE

he in the moral. EMPTHE COLO, glavering man, has be been miles on the clock and unifie Celestial Key, has favourable conditions over hundles for the first time. He is preferred, despita his stable having had such a quiet season.

2.20 SAINTS & SINNERS CLUB OF SCOTLAND
MAIDEN HURDLE (E) (DW II) 53,500 2m

FORM VERDICT

A tass up between the hard-to-train Decoit, who has shown a little promise both starts over hurdles but has to prove he stave. Black Wessel, not the easiest of nides but who will be

2.50 BELL LAWRIE WHITE NOVICE H'CAP CHASE (CLASS E) \$4,500 added 3m 1-FOCO LARICSHEL (7) J P-2Sead P 103 J Calleghan 22PDE ROCHARSANE (84) T Everngon 10 103 ... A McGasth 038445 FACOURS FLAME (N) V Thompson 6 102 Mr M Thompson 65-425 WILLIE HORNE (187) M Toductor 6 10 D. C McGorsneck (5) 10-45 BALLYOWO (III) / Howard Johnson 7 (10 If Heavily (II) - 10 declared -Mariana weight: 12st. True transform weights: Willie Home Set 13th, Belly

cores ser reco. DETTORE: 9-5 Triggerdale, 7-4 Lugible, 9-2 Yoyang Tenna, 8-1 Millio Stan., 8-1 Invent Winely, 14-1 Ballychvici, 18-1 Lartschill, 20-1 others

0 00

FORM VERDICT est race ever staged but one that YOUNG TOMO has a good chance of winning if he reproduces his C&D win

3.25 EBF PROSCOT 'NH' NOVICE HURDLE (Qualifier (D) £4,500 added 2m 4f

5210- COOLAW 5329) F Muschy 6 11 0 ______ A Marcelo 480PDP DOUBLE BUCK (98) W Kemp 7 10 9 = 0 clustered = BETTING: Seems Westerlori, 2-1 Cooker, 7-1 Over The Solvey, 14-1 Three

FORM VERDICT

Westerton hasn't quite fixed up to bumper promise so far and with Ferdie Murphy's string in such good form, it's worth giv-ing COOLAW the benefit of the doubt on his hurdles debut.

4.00 SCOTTISH LIFE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £5,000 added 2m 4f 11424 MASTER BANARO (52) (CD) P.Moresto, fl. in G.C. McConneck (5)

333AF UNICLE BERT (17) Miss L Aussel 9 11 7 R MicGrath 323F3U PARIAH (14) (0) M Tochunier 10 11 2 A Magains 42-F8P GLENOCE (42) A Turnel 8 11 2 Supple 3-3445 CUEENSWAY (11) J Fracional 7 10 7 P Niven 8 33445 OLEEPISWAY (11) J FitzGoold 7 107 P Noven -8 declared -SETTING: 11-4 Briss's Delight, 9-2 Master Baverd, 5-1 Uncle Best, 6-1 ic Glent, 7-1 Partels, Queensway, 8-1 Wise Advice, 14-1 Glendoe

FORM VERDICT Master Baverd will do well to give weight every all round here despite heving condenns very much in his favour. Lunling down the bottom of the handcap QUEENSWAY looks very well. handicacced on his hurdles form and with his stable running

4.30 LITHOPRINT HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) \$4,500 added 2m 4f

1-4340 PLANNING GAIN (10) T Dun 8 10 0

- Delication -

Hinterum weight: 10st. Their handcap weight: Planning Galo Sat Sib.
BET 1992-5-5 Dazent Way 3-4 Jon Hozz, 8-1 Leed Folgald, Dazent Sweet,
6-1 Claim's Dancer, 14-1 Acajon B, 16-1 Supertop, 20-1 Planning Galo FORM VERDICT

Dorana Way has to contend with a step up in the weights and trip and this could be the firm to oppose him. Preference is for the more promising JOE BUZZ, who haten't really had strings go his way the season but is very much one

5.00 IMPERIAL CANCER RESEARCH H'CAP HURDLE (E) £4,000 added 4YO 2m

-5 manual -Monature weight: filest. True handlesp weights: Madman's Millage But 62s. SETTING: 11-6 Christiansted, 2-1 Accyster, 3-1 Cadillac Juliabox, 10-1 Reijar, 66-1 Machan's Nirage FORM VERDICT

If CHRISTIANSTED as in the same form as he was at Doncester on Wednesday, he is going to take all the beating, despite his messive weight. Negar looks the pick of the app

the Triumph Hurdle by running

KEMPTON Going: Good (Good to Firm in places) 2. Tinotope ___Miss S Victory 11-16 fev 3. Copper Thistie ___Mr R Hundsett 5-2

Alact 10-1 Chlem (4th), 11-1 Tug of Peace, 14-1 King of Clare, 25-1 Repeat The Dose, 33-1 Aintrak, Political Sam (5th). by Le Pontet out of La Geins, trained and towned by Mrs P Telley at Cranileigh). Total 2710; 2200, 2130, 2130, DP: 21130, CSP: £28.70. NF: Loyal Note.

2.55: (2m 5f novice hardle)
1. PERCY PARKEEPER "C PERCY PARICEOPER "C Ulewallyn 6-1
 Stormworthy Miles "A Thornton 50-1
 Audicter "R Dunwoody 12-1 3. Audischer — R Dameroody 12-1
Also: 9-2 tev Strong Cabinel pulled up, 5-1
Bluesheen (6th), Coh Sho No pulled up,
11-2 Doc Ryen's pulled up, 6-1 Motet (6th),
14-1 Southernhay Boy polled up, 33-1
Kings Veen (4th), 55 Samuel, formay Hot-spur pulled up, 50-1 Brownings Boy pulled
up, 56-1 Marriss Brave pulled up,
14 ran. 8, 2, 11/4, 12, 4. (Winner bay geld-ing by Teanoso out of True Clown, trained
by N Teiston-Devices & Chelleninam for Mr.
& Mrs. Peter Orton), Total: 8580; E140,
E190, E330. DF: E29830. CSF: 225829.

3.25: (3m novice chase)
1. KING'S BANKER_M A Fitzgerald 11-8 fee 2. Native Player ______ Aspell 16-1 3. Strong Paledin ______ Osborne 9-2

Also: 13-8 Cheertul Aspect (5th), 10-1 Sweet Lord (4th), 68-1 Laure Lugs. 6 ran. 7. 15. dat. (Winner bay gelding by King's Ride out of Winn's Princess, trained by N Handerson at Lambourn for J E H Collins). Toks: 2209; E170; 2330. DF: 22180. CSF: £18.95. NR: Emerald Statement.

3.55: (2m 5t handicap hurdle)
1. FILSCOY ______ 2 A McCardly 12-1
2. Scoring Padigree _A Thornton 5-2 fav
3. Amuze _____ W Greatrex 12-1 Also: 7-2 Lord York (9th), 9-2 Cell My Guest, 12-1 Aboo Hom, Far Dawn, 14-1 Go Go Henry, 20-1 Nine O Three, Royal Piper (5th), 50-1 Djals, Tukano, 66-1 Daring King (4th),

(am).

13 mm. Stahd, 7, 10, 11, 13, (Winner bay geld-ing by Scottish Reel out of Fillode, trained by C Mortock at Wantage for P J Morgan). Refer \$220; 1240, 1270, 1270, 1970. DF: 52320. CSF: \$3824. Tricest: \$392.96. Tote 1.30: (2m 4f 110)yde handicep chase)

Also: 7-2 Peace Lord (5th), 9-1 Sound Reveile (6th), 18-1 Not My Line, 20-1 Plun-der Bay (4th).

7 ran. 12, 16, 5, 1%, 20. (Winner bay gald-ing by Rakapoeti King out of Sutwise, trained by J Old at Wroughton for Denis Mine). Tota: \$4.00; \$2.50, \$2.50. DF: \$8.50.

5.00: (2m MH novice hurde)

1. STAR OF DUNGANNON _AP McCoy 3-1

2. Leaborn _____ C Napide evens fav

3. Borotawn Lord _____ J Ceborne 8-1

Alate: 5-1 Puring Wester, 14-1 Southdown
Lad, 33-1 Laming Wester, 14-1 Southdown
Lad, 33-1 Fare HS (3th), 33-1 Maybeseven, Persrola (4th), Proper Primitive (6th),
Tudor King, 66-1 Withesway Lady Tudor King, 66-1 Witheaveray Lady.

11 mm, 4, 11, 12, 3/k, 8, (Winner bay gelding by Forzando out of Key To The River,
trained by M Pipe at Wellington for Mrs L.

14 Sewelli, Tota: \$410; \$120, \$130, \$190, \$19\$1330, \$57-\$1820, \$17-\$180, \$19\$1330, \$57-\$1820, \$17-\$180, \$19\$1330, \$57-\$180, \$19-\$190, \$

RESULTS

200: 1, BACK ON THE LASH (N WINSTROOT) 13-8 fext; 2. Ryshux 18-1; 3. Bellymeloe Boy 12-1. 16 rart. 12, 2. (Miss Venetis Williams. rd). Total: \$2.50; £130, £130, £300. DF 2.30: 1, PRIME EXAMPLE (N WESTISS 230: 1. Prime: Example (N Westman) 11-4 ji kar, 2. Theature Again 9-2; 3. Cadrillon 25-1.11 ran. 11-4 ji far Tomis River (60), 4, 13. (Martin Tadhunta; Ulversion). Total Easin; Caloi, Eusi, 54.90. DF, 512.20. CSF. E1487. Tripasti 2244.88.

MAINE POST CHAVE

MARKET RASEN

Going: Hardies Good to Soft, Soft, Good to Soft back straight

3.05: 1, LLIKE WARM (G Bradley) 100-30; 2. Cardinal Rule 4-7 (ar; 3. Cyborg De Bee-talal 16-1. 4 ran. 8, 5. (D Gendolfo, Warriage). Rote: £2.60. DF: £2.20. CSF: £5.53. 3.35: 1. JULIES JEWEL (W Worthington) Institutes 17-2 12 ran. 11/s, 8. (M Chep-man, Market Resen). Total 21330; 2150, 210, 2171. DP, 2710. CSF: 235.48.

4.10: 1. SAD MAD BAD (P Niven) 1-4 ter; 2. Keen To The Last 12-1; 3. Medemist Sem 33-1.5 ran. 5, 27. (Mrs M Reveley, Sathum). Teles 2000, 2000, 1000, 07; 2040, 037; 2021. 4.40: 1. PRUSSIA (G Tormey) 8-1; 2. Royal Arctic 8-1; 3. Lord Pat 11-1. 10 ran. 9-2 te Aussie 8ob. 20, 5. (W Clay, Fulford). Totac £12.20; \$2.40, £1.70, £2.00. DF: £28.40. CSF:

5...0: 1. IFISH WILDCARD (Mr.J. Crowley)
7-1; 2. Brancopeth Belle 8-1; 3. Feir And
Pancy 7-1. 10 ram. 2-1 lav Get The Point. 3,
11/4. (J. Howard Johnson, Crook). Tota: 11/4. (J. Howard Johnson, Crook). Total: £8,70; £3,80, £2,00, £2,00, DF: £34,50, CSF: £58,96, Tricast; £379,01,

Piscepot: £56.30. Quedpot: £13.30. Pisce 6: £119.77. Pisce 5: £54.57.

SOUTHWELL Going: Standard 1.10: 1. SMPELLING (Darren Willerns) 9-2; 2. Zabrisida 11-1; 3. Linguistic Dancer 12-1. 9 ram, ft-4 fev Officis Chuckin 6th) 1/2 (K Burke), Yeste: \$6.20; \$180, \$2.40, \$5.40 OF: 21390 CSP: £3125 Tricent 532238 NP: Miss

1.40: 1. SAGUARO (P Fitzsimors) 14-1; 2. Golden Lyric 6-5 fax; 3. Moram Boy 6-4, 9 ran, 13, ric. (K Morgan). Tota: £1200; £410, £110, £110, £110, £17.30. CSP: £28.62. Tricast:

53.7. 2.10: 1. MATTEAMIA (J Culm) 9-2; 2. Nithy Norman 13-2; 3. Tons Tus 7-4 fax. 10 min. 1, 1%. (S Bowring). Total: 5550; 5240, 5270 STIR. DF: \$1750, CSP: £3102. Triess:

245: 1. LOST SPIRIT (L Chemock) 12-1; 2. Creen Cell Lady 100-80; 3. An Executive Do 4-5 fex. 6 ran. 13, 14, (P Helti, Tota: \$1600; 2350, \$180. DF; \$3120. CSF; \$4783, NF; River

8.15: 1. COOL SECRET (N Calen) 8-1; 2. Rude Assainaning 10-1; S. Nero Tirol 9-4 fex, 9 ran. 74, 174. (K Burke). Tota: \$1550; \$220, \$230, \$120 DF: \$2220, CSF: \$7888. 3.45: 1. ROYAL CASCADE (R Cochane) 9-2;

2. Walking Knight 11-1; 3. Dehildya 8-1, 10 ran, 7-2 far Belsman, 7, hd. (6 McMehoo). Yote: \$4,90; £140, £290, £200, 0F: £2600. CSF: £5085, Tricast £358,99. 420: 1. BRSH CREAM (T G McLaughin) 11-6 fax; 2. Carrie Pooter 8-1; 3. Rich Bellering 11-2 10 ran. 8, 1/a. (P Evans), Tope 2150: 2230, 5220, 5220, 52500, 5250, 52500, 52500, 52500, 52500, 52500, 52500, 52500, 52 4.50: 1. COUNT DE MONEY (J Quim) 5-2 4.50 1. COUNT DE MONEY (1 CUIT) D'« fax; 2. Yes Keemo Sabes 7-2; 3. Johanne The Johan 16-1 13 ram, Nr. 4. (6 Bowling), Rola: \$250; £150, £150, DF; £810, CSF; £888, Tricast: £111.26,

Place 6: £18185. Place 5: £4630.

THE INDUSTRIAL

Eudipe's power to keep Wolfe at bay

Steve Smith Eccles analyses today's Greenalls Grand National Trial at Haydock



General Wolfe: Has won his Him Of Praise: Came good last four races at Haydock but in the Uttoxeter National Trilooked beaten when falling at Uttoxeter last time. He faces a stiff task under top-weight over this trip.

Cyborgo: Has had his problems and is one to avoid

Endipe: A class act who was second to Teeton Mill on soft ground in the Hennessy before obliging over a longer trip at Sandown. Sure to be in the first three barring a fall,

Earthmover: His form fig-ures - fell and unseated rider - fail to inspire but if this normally good jumper puts in a clear round I expect him to be in the thick of it.

Adding The Facts: Atough, well and stays. However, she lacks a turn of foot and will probably have to be content with a minor placing.

Dom Samourai: This little grey has to be pushed and squeezed every inch of the first class and Martin Pipe's way and usually tires his jockey out before the finish.

al and could confirm superiority over Fiddling The Facts, Forest Ivory and Mudahim. Mudahim: Ran well last time but looks too long in the tooth

at the age of 13. Forest Ivory: Always seems to run well without getting in-

volved in the finish Davy Blake: Came good at Kelso last time but has a lot more on his plate here.

Young Kenny: Stays well but better in his own grade. Cavalero: Another who is unlikely to figure. Island Chief: Has two wins

to his credit but takes on

some good horses from a

long way out of the handicap. Conclusion: EUDIPE'S form is rock solid. His performance behind the Cheltenham Gold Cup favourite, Teeton Mill, in the Hennessy Gold Cup was

runner should oblige. The

danger is Earthmover.

HAVDOCK

1.15: Simply Gifted has done nothing wrong and fully deserves the weight. But the interesting proposition in receipt of 21lb is PREMIUM QUEST, who is best judged on his encouraging debut effort against Charlie's Gold and his win from the front at Market Rasen.

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1.19 1.45: FOURTH IN LINE may have won only narrowly here last time, but the runner-up is no mug. He rates the bet getting 12lb from Storm Damage, who should go close after sound efforts at Kempton and Cheltenham. 000

2.15: Although the trip is wrong, the weights are right for GO-INFORMAL, who heads for the Stayers' Hurdle at Cheltenham if coming through this test unscathed.

Back from injury, he might outstay Blowing Wind and Master Beveled getting a very generous 12lb. 2.45: ISLAND CHIEF does

HYPERION'S

TV TIPS

KEMPTON

2.35: This trip looks too short for class act Prominent Profile, and highly-tried RENZO is a viable alternative.

3.05: MAKOUNJI would have a good chance at level weights and cannot be opposed off only 10st 2lb.

3.35: This is between KATARINO and Searlet Pimpernel, the Henderson charge so impressive in his two British starts that he has to be the selection.

4.10: Dr Leunt and Mr Strong Gale deservedly head the betting but CHIEF'S SONG is worth an interest at 20-1. The chief doubt is stamina, but he has been running on well at the end of his races at 2m4f.

task his place 17lb out of the 4.40: There are big question handicap suggests. Back marks over most in this field, from injury with decent wins and the vote goes to LORD at Wetherby and Ayr, he can JIM who did so well last hold his own in this tougher term and was injured on his reappearance.

	_	_		_	_					45
	1989	90	91	92	83	94	95	96	97	. 68
Fate of the favouritee:	P/P	7	0	P	3	3	F	1/3	4	4
Winner's place in bettir	19:3	1	2	3	0	3	2	1J	0	2
Starting-prices:	5-1	8-11	7-2	6-1	11-1	7-1	11-2	3-1	14-1	4-1
Winners' weights:	111	123	107	TL10	10:10	104	112	108	102	101
Winners' ages:	8	111	9	10	10	6	8	10	Ħ	10
Profit or loss to £1 stal	te: Fav	CLETE	84 -£	627	Seco	nd Fe	Youri	86 +	26.00	
Percentage of winners	placed	i ist,	2nd (or 3rd	in la	ri rac	a: 509	6	_	
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Shortest-priced where:					-u					_
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FIRST/SHOW

HAYDOCK 1.15						
	C	H	L	T		
الملات إلجالا	74	13-8	2-1	13-8		
	11-2	5-1	92	11-2		
line line	7-1	# 2	7-1	11-2		
Takite	6-1	7-1	6-1	13-2		
Newscas Saumon	8-1	8-1	8-1	8-1		
Charlie's Gold	61	9-1	9-1	10-1		
Premium Corest	12-1	10-1	6-1	12-1		
Droughi	16-1	16-1	16 -1	14-1		
Rajati	16-1	20-1	14-1	15-1		
Each-way a lith the oxids, places 1, 2, 3						

HAYDOCK 1.45						
	C	H	L	T		
Fourth in Line	10-11	71-1D	54	54		
Sioner Dansage	11-4	5-2	52	11-4		
Store Charge	5-1	10-3	7-2	10-3		
Microse Strol	7-1	8-1	13-2	7-1		
District Dancer	10-1	12-1	19-1	9-1		
Consequential Artist	40-1	40-1	40-1	33-1		
Monacolity Man	500-1	500-1	250-1	50 1		
Chical Crosset	500-1	500-1	300-1	50-1		
Eachway a lith the odds, places 1, 2, 3						

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	RACING	SERV	/ICES
i		<u> 261</u>	+
	LIVE COMMEN	TARIES	RESULTS
	KEMPTON	971	981
	HAYDOCK	972	982
	MUSSELBURGH	973	983
	LINGFIELD	974	984
	ALL COURS	ES RESU	LTS
	0891 2	<u>61 9</u>	<u>/U</u>
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		c	H	L	5	1
	Fláding T Fects	8-2	92	9-2	5-1	54
	General Walls	5-1	5-1	5-1	100	54
	Estimate	5-1	5-1	11-2	THE	3-
	Escipe	11-2	5-1	51	14-2	8-1
	Him Of Protoc	9-1	9-1	8-1	84	84
	Jaland Chief	11-2	7-1	81	9-1	6-1
	Young Kenny	19-1	9-1	91	10-1	10-1
	Forest Ivary	12-1	12-1	10-1	71-1	12-1
	Davy Blake	16-1	20-1	29-1	5 .1	, 16-1
	Dom Semoumi	29-1	18-1	20-1	18-1	16-1
ŀ	Cyberge	25-1	25-1	20-1	D1	201
	<u> Alterialis</u>	33-1	33-1	33-1	28-1	33-1
	Cavalano	49-1-	40-1	38-1	40-1	33-1
	Each-way, a	dap	the oci	عقم پخ	38 1, 2	3
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HAYDOCK 2.45

	KEMPTON 4.10						
1		C	Ħ	Ł	8		
Ш	De Laure	11-4	14	10-3	H	3-1	
П	lik Stylet Gale	3-1	3-1	11-4	7-2	3-1	
Н	Bres Flow	9-2	9-2	9-2	41	94	
П	Shotankup	7-1	6-1	74	7-1	10-2	
П	The Land Agent	6-1	7-1	61	15-2	7.1	
Н	Charlesger D Luc	11-1	10:1	91	9-1	11-1	
Н	Dogoided Mosk	e 11-1	124	9.1	12-1	11-1	
П	Philip's Woody				6 1	16-1	
П	Chief's Song				18-1	#-1	
П	Eachway		e odd	, place:	1,28		
П	C Coral H William	HELL	adada	15, S.St	niek T	die	

HAYDOCK

1.15 Premium Quest 1.45 Fourth in Line 2.15 Go-Informal 2.45 ISLAND CHIEF (map)

HYPERION 3.20 Bunbury 3.50 Potentate 4.25 Granit D'Estruvui

III. Latt-hand course with imposing drop fences and run-in of two furlongs.

III. Course is near junction of ASSO and M6. Newton station 2m. ADMISSION: County Stand 177; Tattersals 200; Newton Stand 25 (OAPs half-price in Tattersals and New-

ION Stand): CAR PARK: FIVE.

FIVE-YEAR STATUSTEDS

LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 36-53 (235%), N Twiston-Davies 19-81 (235%), D Nicholson 13-64 (203%), Mrs M Reveley 12-68 (175%), J M Jefferson 9-26 (846%), ELEADING JOCK(195'R Dusproody 20-75 (257%), C Hemelyn 13-69 (22%), A Maggirs 12-52 (231%), C Maude 11-45 (244%), L Wyer 11-73 (151%), W Marston 10-50 (20%), EMPOUNTIES: 12-534 (255%), ELEADING LOS ODSTANCE RUNNERS:

BLANKERED FIRST TIME: Trainide (1:50), Thatching Led (4:25).

_		
[1	.15	VICTOR LUDORUM HANDICAP HURDLE (C) BBC1 £7,500 added 4YO 2m Penalty Value £5,173
1	1F21	SMPLY (IFTED (61) (D) (State Harmond; T Essaetry 11 1)
2	32	MEM BIRD (GER) (40) (D) (BP) (Peter E Ciritin) D Micholan 11 5
3	, phss	NAMARRE SAMSON (PR) (25) (D) (Winton Bloodstock Ltd) P Hobbs 11 2 - R Weiger (S) yellow, emerally green cross of lonaire, halved piecess, emerally green cast
4	125036	CHARLES GOLD (P16) (CD) (Cases Gold) A Baley 11 ()
5	P-1113	TRALLEDE (FT) (B1) (D) (BF) (T S M Conneghent) M Pipe 13 10
6	福	OPTRESTIC CHRIS (25) (D) (Optrestic Recrig) A Streeter 10.8
7	. 10	CMCWSKI (38) (U) (8F) (P Saundas And R George) N Teleson-Daves 10 3 C Maude white, dark blue coordes, dark blue cap
8	210	PROBABLUM CUREST (91) (9F) (J C Persons) R Petray 10 3 E Callaghan white, black size while should black seems, black cap, white star
ð	47584	RALIATI (USA) (13) (0) (Hastiny Racing) A Streets 10 3 They white, not seek white seems, noyel blue analists, royal blue cap

Malanum weight: 10st 3th. Rue hundicap weights: Premium Coast, Rejes ast 13th BETTRAS: 13-6 Simply Gilled, 11-2 New Brd, 5-1 Trabelda, Optimistic Claria, 8 10-1 Charile's Gold, Premium Caset, 16-1 Dracestd, 20-1 Rejett 1888: Sad Mart Bed 4 11 10 P Niven 10-1 (Mrs M Revoley) 13 ran FORM GUIDE

Simply Giffad; Dust winner at Weterby (stest by 15 lengths) and would have besten Naverre Samson frère but for falling two qut (4lb worse here). Acts in soft ground
New Birdt Plat winner in Germany. Had Trailuide 33 lengths behind when winning at
Kempton and not degraced at weights when 2nd to Plash at Wetwold. Ran poorly at
Sandown last time when 2nd to Pla And Run and soft ground against him here
Charife's Goldd: Bear newcomer Premium Quest here and 14 lengths behind Samply
Giffad (stone better today) when 3nd to Katarino at Challeshern, Jumped bedly lest
time when last of six to Hit And Run at Sandown and had a Flat run since
Trailuide; Won four times at Autauf and followed Newbury success (beet Shecoarcer) ie: Won four times at Auteuf and followed Newbury success (best Sherganzer) presumes von our sines at August and nowed NewCury success (peet Sherganzer) with a moody 3rd to New Bird at Kempton, Now 18th better and fred bintegred Optimistic Chrise Uttorater seller winner and scored in better race at Kelso Droowald: Well-bed gelding and debut venner by 28 lengths at Towcester. Hot fevourite at Huntington but faciled from two out when 7th to Genstione
Premisms Quest; Pleasing debut here (Sib better with Charlies Gold) and made all at Martet Pasen next time, Not good enough against older horses last time (clipokeys) see won by Castaplicative at Warnets)

Rejett: Duel winner and stiff task after latest 4th to What A Fuse at Hereford VERDICT: There are no problems with the ground concerning SIMPLY GIFTED, who fully deserves the weight against this opposition. He bounced back with a 15-length auccess at Wetherby after finding filtumph fancy (Satarmo loo good at Cheltenham and what beats him today is the winner. Kempton scorer New Bird was conceding 11 b when second to Flush but that filly has since been beaten at Tauraton.

1.45 GREENALLS ORIGINAL LONDON DRY GIN BBC1 -3312 STORM DAMAGE (26) (D) (T Carry C Lews, P Microil) P Nichols 7 11 10 ... A P McCoy yellow, black star, emerate green cap, black star 12-164 BLUE CHARM (28) (D) (Mrs M C Lindsay) Mrs S Brachume 9 11 9 . Mr M Brachume (3) -ISM FOURTH IN LINE (36) (CD) (John Nichols) Mes V Williams 11 (2 12 II William royal blue, white epoulets, checked sheares
PTSP-5 DIWALL DANCER (SS) (CD) (B E Case) M Pipe 9 to 12
black and royal blue (quantered), beign silveres and cap
-12224 MOUSE BRRD (Ta) (Cobart Parce) D Gardathy 9 to 2. peacock bite, purple and yellow hooped steeree, yellow csp 5345PD MONAUGHTY MAN (7) (Mrs Karan Woodhead) E Caine 19 10 0...... erhilo, rojel bilan spole, pusple disence and cap
PSPEEP CHOXALL CROSSETT (17) filins Kenen Woodhead) & Care 14 10 0
mikle, rojel bilan spole, pusple absence, arbite cap

Minimum weight: 10st This hendicap weights: Monseghty Man 7ej 1th, Quical Crossot (et 9th, BETTING) 5-4 Foorth in Unis, 5-3 Storm Demage, 5-1 Store Chema, 7-1 Mouse Sted, 10-1 Diwell Dancer, 33-1 Commercial Artist, 500-1 Monseghty Man, Ostball Crossest 1992; Even Flow 9 10 9 T J Murphy 5-1 (T Cassy) 7 ran

Storm Damage: Kempton win from The Land Agent subsequently boosted by Dames Cavaller (\$40), at Sandown, 7to higher today and stiff task against Dr Leunt from 6th out of handicap at Cheltenham last time Blue Charts: Only 1to higher mark since Antiree was from Pentlands Piver. First nur this when the to Major Bell in Greet Yorkstrie (Em). Whis over the tro all Artist: Without a run for a year and little chance in the company Fourth in Line: Has been raised 13th since an easy win from Dante's Cavalier at New Diseasi Dancer: Dual wavner over C&D but tolled off here behind Super Com over 2m in eaconstraines. Dispose the and will do batter to the neum to Small disease Bird: Stratford wirner on reappearance and stayed on in 4th to Country Star c Newbury (2m1f) last time after looking moody. Stays the trip

Moneumbry Man; Lisually finishes tailed off and no hope from 3st out of handicar VERDICT: Storm Damage is at the top of his form and though his latest runs have Deen with teather weights he should still be a threat to them all off first his natural weaker grade. Size Charm's fourth in the Grass Yorkshire was a decent effort and

he's just as effective over today's shorter trip. But the winning run of FOURTH IN LINE may not be over after the latest success over course and distance.

2.15 STRETTON LEISURE SELECT HURDLE (B) £15,000 added 2m Penalty Value £10,260 BBC1 THE SECONTING WIND (FR) (SE) (D) (P A DOOR) M PIDE 6 TI TZ......

998" Red Blazer 7 11 4 J Culloty 4-5 tev (Miss H Knight) 8 ren

FORM GUIDE

Blowing Wind: Notched Imparial Cup/County Hurdle double last year. Fourth with 12st to Polar Prospect at Sendown on reappearance and then fell fifth in conditions race won by Masser Beveled here. Holds Champion Hurdle entry Beveled: Typical came effort to beat Weniba Sends here and stem task at Bellator: Capable type but soon-strugging when 45 lengths behind Master Beveled here last time. Needs to improve plantly on same weight terms. Ge-Informati: Smart stayer and having first run since suffering leg injury. Latest win gened from Antapoura at Newbury (3mili) and holds Stayers' Hurdle entry Home Countless in need of seasonal outing (and first run for new trainer) when a 21-length 4th to Cottstown Boy in Ayr handicap (2m4f), 2m too sharp nowedays VERDICT: Master Beveled is wonderfully tough and buckled down for a fight once agan at Sandown last trae when conceding planty of weight to Midnight Legend. He has the competent Jamie Spencer aboard and holds a clear advantage over Bellator

on course running last month, in that same race BLOWING ROCK came to goef and hes worth changing on his impressive bro-race handicap double last sees 2.45 GREENALLS GRAND NATIONAL TRIAL HCAP CHASE (A) £85,000 3m 4f 110yds £49,100 201-1F GENERAL WOLFE (21) (C) (The Winning Line) Mass V Williams 10 11 10..... N William white, black searcs, white and yellow halved also very yellow cap PSP-P4 CYBORIGO (FR) (28) (County Stores (Somersen) Holdings Ltd) M Pipe 9 Tt 65 Durack B yellow, restron cross bells, royal blue sitewes, royal blue and yellow quarkined cap

yellow, brown doc. striped steeves, hosped cap PF-322 PLDDLBNS THE FACTS (21) (BF) (Mrs & Roberts) N Henderson 6 10 12 R Johnson clark blue and yellow stopes, whee steems and o 42431 DAMY BLAKE (23) (T N Dalgetty) T Dalgetty 12 10 0 Chocolett, green cep, white spote 2342U YOUNG KENNY (7) (SF) (J G Read) P Beaumont 8 10 0 purple, yellow sist, booped sheves, yellow 92523 CAVALERO (57) (H J Marriers) H Marriers TO 10 0 dark blue, med cop, green aports 1F1/71 ISLAND CHIEF (14) (George Diger) P Beaumont 10 10 0 ... grey, marcon hoop, mercon sheeres, grey armiets, quarient dep ~ 13 declared ~

ns weight: 10st. True handicup weights: Forest lvory 9st 13th, Davy Blate 9st 11th, Young Kenny Ret 5th, Cavalera Ret Oth, Island Chief Bet 11th. BETTING 54 Pidding The Facts, Earthrover, General Wolfe, 11-2 Euclipe, 15-2 Him Of Praise, 10-1 Island Chief, Young Kenny, 12-1 Forest Ivory, 16-1 Dom Sensoural, 20-1 others 1998 Dom Samoura: 7 10 0 C Maude, 10-1 (M Pipe) 15 non

FORM GUIDE

General Wolfer Returned from year off to repeal course win in Peter March (best Stript) Deshing 4 lengths). Close up when tell final lende in Him Of Prases race at Untraever (antit) and now 4th better with winner and 2th with Fidding The Facts (2nd)
Cyborge: Lightly raced over past two seasons and stril tesh lest time when 4th to Stablemate Cybor Mate a Cheltenheim. Likely to Stripgle
Eudlipe: Second in Hennessy, 4th in Welch National and garne winner with 12st from
Gifter Islé at Seadown (stript). So higher mark today but fine chance
Earthmover: Chelschism Findhunters winner lest season. Jumping errors so far this
term (departed at third at Newbury) but a big threat with clear round.
Fidding The Factas Decent mare and 3rd in Hennessy prior to unfucky 2nd in Welsh
National (made crucial mistakes). Failed to confirm that form with Him Of Prase at Uttowers (2nd 1) lest time when caught and beaten 2 lengths. 2th better of thoday
Dom Samourselt Winner of this rece last year but has struggled in two runs since a
win over C&D (4th higher mark here) and a 2nd to See More Busness at Chelsenheim and to gain win term Floding The Facts at Utpaster. Has won over 4m here
Him Of Prases at Utbasser. Mandahilm: Winner of 1997 hish Naponer and pirst run for hew trainer when a weal bearen 4th to Him Of Prace at Utiloseers
Forest Ivory: 6 lengths behind Fidding The Facta when 3rd in Welsh Naponal but 25
lengths admit of that mare when 3rd to Him Of Praise at Utiloseer Looks held
Davy Bales: Kelso specialist and gamed eighth win three when beating Swambaker
last time. May not be good anough in the company and 3th out of handicap
Young Kennyr: Early casuality in Eider and unifiedly to figure from 9th out of handicap
on his earlier Wetherby showing (made mistakes against Step On Eyre)
Carvillence Has won over 4m21 but not as effective this season. Stiff task from a stone
out of the welchts.

out of the weights latend Chilef: Off course for two years because of harfine leg fracture but as good as ever with wars at Wetherby and Ayr. Biggest test yes from 17th out of handicap proper but could still be the one they have to best

VERDICT: Him or preise needs plenty of pushing and showing and the introduction of binkers and spurs has shown him a more willing arimal. Hes closely matched with Fiddling The Facts and General World on Untoweer form, and Fiddling The Facts in tim has the same sort of chance as Euclide on Hernessy running. There is also the chance of top hunter Earthmoree going well in estays on his feet but the choice is ISLAND CHIEF deepte his position from out of the handicap proper.

3.20 MTB GROUP MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 6f Penalty Value £3,022

SETTING: 13-8 Lucky Rose, 7-2 Reath Remerk, Burbury, 5-1 Rocketifie Gossip, 12-1 Chergen, Statin's Paril, Neverthed Noy, 16-1 others 1999: Abou Hom 4 10 10 C Maude 9-2 (M Pope) 18 ran

FORM VENDICT

RASH REMARK, who showed plenty of ability in kish bumpers and represents the Johnson-Pipa team, is entered in the big Chellanham nowce events and would not have to be that class to win in this company. Lucky Rosa is no speed merchant but tas some sold form in the book and ran well over a shorter trip here last month. He is officially rated narrowly superior to Rockelliffe Gosalp, who was rather disappointing bet time, as in it should find a manifestitus.

3.50 WHITE RABBIT NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £8,000 added 2m Penalty Value £5,446

- 4 declared BETTING: 1-20 Potentiate, 16-1 Eben Al Habeeb, 50-1 Cregg House, Triona's Hope
Will Edelveis D Moulin 6 11 12 P Carberry 8-11 by (G Richerds) 5 ran
FORM VERIORCT POTENTATE could probably fall, remount and still win this and he cannot be op-posed even at judicrously short odds. If he gets round in one piece, he wins.

4.25 TARVIN STANDARD NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,750 added 2m Penalty Value £1,495

FORM VERDICT

BACCARAT sets a decent standard here and is the one to beat, though he would be waterable under his penaity to a useful rivel and there are some interesting alternatives, Grand D'Estruval, Langholte Venture and Good Heart are all worth noting in the market, white Str Riobbo is another to consider.

KEMPTON

4.40 Lord Jim

5.15 Scarlet Emperor

4.10 Chief's Song

2.00 Lake Kariba 2.35 Renzo 3.05 Makounil

3.35 Katarino

GOING: Good (Good to Firm in places).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME Name

Flight-hand course. Practically flat. Fun-in of 200yd. Course is on A308 at Suribury, Kempton Park relively station adjoins course. ADMIS-SION: Club £16 (Juniors (17 to 21-year-olds £6); Grandstand £10; Silver Ring £5. Accom-Danied children under-18 tree. Parkint: Members car park £5 (Irmted and must be

are-booked), CAR PARK: Members £2; remainder, free. FINE-YEAR STATISTICS LEADING TRAINERS: D Nicholson 22-75 (293%), N Handerson 16-83 (193%), R Almer 15-44 (341%), P Nicholis 11-34 (324%), N Treiston-Davies 11-65 (69%). M LEADING JOCKEYS: M A Fitzperald 28-151 (214%), J Oaborne 23-81 (284%), A Maguire 21-65 (247%), R Dunwoody 20-89 (202%), A Thornton 19-56 (53.9%). FAVOURITES: 128-815 (40.8%)

2.00 JACK JOSEPH 80TH BIRTHDAY EMBLEM CHASE (CLASS B) £12,000 added 2m Penalty Value £8,208

12104 KADASTROF (FR) (229) (CD) (A P Paton) R Dickin 9 12 0...... -21545 LAKE KARIBA (7) (D) (P Barbet, A Coburn, T Curry, D Milar) P Nichols 8 12 0 . J Tezzard 21P/C- AEDEAN (474) (D) (The Aedean Partnership) G Evright 10 to 0 ______R Thornton SOD/OF CLASSIC MAGE (24) (D) (H J Manners) H Manners 9 11 0 (5 Bustows) ~ 6 declared -

BETTING: 6-4 Lake Kortha, 2-1 Super Tacaics, 5-2 Kadestrol, 66-1 others 998: Kadashof B tt Q A Thornion 4-11 fav (R Dickin) 4 ran FORM VERDICT

All three principals like to oc off in front so there will be no handing about. Kadas trof has a stiff task at the weights but there is very little between Lake Kariba and SUPER TACTICS on official marks. At his very best, Lake Kanba should win but he is none too consistent and for that reeson, and the fact that he goes really well at this track, Super Tactics is preferred.

2.35 WEEKENDER DOVECOTE NOVICE HURDLE (Grade 2) (A) £15,000 added 2m £9,465 0-1166 ALHOSAAM (15) (Nick Clark) G L Moore 5 ft 10 white, had stripe, diabolic on eleaves, striped cap 1/22 RENZO (7) (Cherthern Ltd) J L Harris 6 (1 10.......

red, black sach, white aboves, red alars, black and red hooped cap jamen and pirk class, with statem.

(3-12) Philadelli Geologici (10) (F Cameraton) N Harderson (11) 7 M A Financial white, royal older game, inhoras print man an aug 1-1011 PROMENENT PROFILE (33) (D) (Son Partnersho) N Treaton-Danies 6 to 7 . C Lievelbyn red and royal blue stripes, light blue steeres, red and royal blue ournered cap 42 LECENDARY LOVER (25) (SP) (Come Recing List) J Jerkins 5 11 3 _____ Octoon yellow, pusple star, yellow and dark green striped eleeves, pusple cusp

TOTAL PROPERTY CONT. CONT. THE TOTAL BETTRIG:13-6 Prominent Profile, 5-2 Devoski, 9-2 Renzo, 5-1 Premier Generation, 14-1 Alhossem, 16-1 Legendary Lover, 50-1 Blue Music 898: Buddy Marvel 4 11 0 R Dunwoody 10-3 (O Sherwood) 6 ran

BLUE MUSIC (F136) Wack Joseph) P Hobbs 4 10 7

FORM QUIDE

m: Has won at Forsiwell and Taunton. Much stiffer teak today, much too stiff judged on his 141/; lengths sixth of 8 to Grecten Dart here (2m, soft) on Borong Day Renzo: Impressive at Ascot (2m, sort) in November. Much strifer tasks since, but might have troubled 9-length winner Buckside at Ascot last week except for jumping emo Davosti: Won at three minor tracks before beeting Magic Circle 10 lengths over C&D in January. Good fourth to Tiulichev in £21,000 handicap 5 weeks ago, again on soft Generation: Won novice events at Chellenham (handicap; 2m, good) and Warwick, latter at 11-10 by 3 langths from Arctic Fancy. Has to improve again. ent Profile: Won bumpers at Chaltenham and Chapetow, letter 8 useful race in good style. Ground again very testing when he best Master Pilgrim 10 lengths on hurding debut at Wetherby (2m4f). Highly promising, but 2m looks shorter than ideal Legendary Lover. Fet maiden on Flat in 1987. Promising 141/2 lengths tourth of 13 to sale here (2m, heavy) in January. Balow that form at Follostione 16 days later Blue Music: 4yo by Keen. Won two modest handicaps (tim2) and tim4) in freiend last year for Declan Gliespie. Bought for 13,000 guineas in October

VERDICT: PROMINENT PROFILE is surely the best in this field. Birdy to take high rank among the season's novices, and he must be the form selection despite having given the strong impres sion that he will prove best over markedly longer distances than ats Renzo and Davosid may well be on the upgrade, but their form also comes from soft-ground events. The latter is 17th better off for his 41/h length beating by Premier Generation on good going at Chehanham in November.

3.05 MITSUBISHI SHOGUN PENDIL TROPHY NOVICE CHASE (Grade 2) (A) £20,000 2m 4f 110 vds £12,380 marcon and pray (quartered), marcon steeres, gray armite dark green and yellow stopes, dark green alceves, quantered cap 20-430 STAR RAGE (F7) (J David Abell) D Eswarth 9 11 3 ________P Holloy white, light blue upots, white sleeves, light blue cap, white spots

- 6 declared -SETTING: 47 Malcount, 7-2 No Ratrest, 9-2 King Of Sparts, 12-1 Star Rage Stormy Passage 8 11 3 R Durwoody 11-8 tay (P Hobbs) 4 ran

RORM GUIDE

No Retreat: Easily made all at Newbury (good) and Newcastla. Had excuse penutimate start before 3'/s lengths second to Hoh Express at Sandown, All reces at 2m4f liding Of Sparta: Hea won 7 races over fences at around 2m4f, but limitations exposed (22 lengths behind numer-up No Retreat) in Grade 1 at Sandown latest start Star Rage: Won on Flat 7 days ago. Chances on his amart hurdles form, but a lot to find on two chasing efforts (12% lengths third to Mountain Slorm here) in November Makouniji: Easily best Cherrymore at Laicester (2m4f, soin) before surging clear from Potentate on run-in at Newbury (2m1) good to soft, turnoing well on both occasions VERDICT: Receiving lumps of weight for her age and sex, the smart French import MAKOUNJI will be extremely hard to beat. The sound-jumping New Zealander No Retreat is the one most likely to benefit should the favourite suffer any meshap.

3.35 VOICE NEWSPAPER ADONIS HURDLE (Grade 2) (A) £15,000 4YO 2m Penalty Value £9,555 4A-S11 KATARINO (FR) (105) (D) (Robert Waley-Cohen) N Handerson 11 6......M A Fizzgerald brown, brange Stewes, Quartered cap 1U SCARLET PIMPERNEL (15) (CD) (Flohard Hambro) N Twiston-Davies 11 2. C Llewellyn Dink, dark blue Seems, pink čed white, large red spots, hoopled steeres, red day 5 KASEO (21) (C.L. Saugeon & Mas P.A. Saugeon) C. Mann 10 12 ...

estant who fished, debut on passes, quemed as - 6 declared -BETTING: 2-5 Katarino, 8-4 Sceniel Pimpernel, 25-1 Temper Lad, Tomory Careon, 50-1 others 998: Fataliste 4 11 6 A P McCoy 3-1 (M Pipe) 5 ran

royal blue, red spors, black cap, white spors

195 TOMBLY CARSON (7) (DGH Partneshin) D Flatorth to C. ...

FORM GUIDE

nc: Won at Newbury (2m1f, good) on Brissh debut by 10 lengths. Followed up

by 11 from Simply Gritad at Chaltenham (good to soft) 4 days later, making all with striking performance that put him at the head of betting for the Triumph Hurdle Scarlet Phapernel: Best Nuvelino by 5 lengths over C&D (fleavy) on British debut. Would also have besten Quel Senor at Newbury (good to soft) but for unsesting his ider with a most awkward leap (kept jumping left up the straight) at the last Chief Cashier: Farty useful on Flat. Some promise, though beaten long way, in the mud at Chepstow on hurding debut, but poor effort at Doncaster four weeks later Kesid; Ran in two Flat maldens for Dermot Weld, Sold 15000 curreas, Well-besten fifth of 7 over hundles at Sandown, bumped on final turn and soon finding little Temper Lad: Won on sound surface at Stratford and Huntingdon Better form 81/s lengths behind Miss Orphan over C&D (good to soft) in October, but not seen since nty Carson: Visorad, 8 lengths third to Zapateedo at Sandown (2m, good to soft), Kasid well back in fifth. A straggler in much stronger race at Ascot last week VERDICT: Triumph Hurde favourite KATARINO can underline those Chellenham Festival claims by maintaining his unbeaten record in Britain. Scarlet Pimpernel, the only possible threat on form, has lots of talent but failed to keep company with his lockey when taking his hurdles in a most wayward fashion at Newbury last time.

4.10 RACING POST HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS A) £60,000 added 3m Penalty Value £35,700 form also, regal about this dismont, dismonth on sistens and cap yellow, tlark blue stripe, clark blue sleeves, yellow armiets, white cap TIZZZZ MER STRONG GALE (28) (C) (D) (1 Chapped, R Eddy) P Nicholis 6 TI O. . . . J Tizzard B dark green, black stash, dark green steeres, rad armites, black and red, check cap red, brown hoop, striped sieeves 132-13 EVEN FLOW (28) (C) (AT A Wates) T Casey 10 10 8...... J Osborne navy blue, green sech, cerise cap PP4312 THE LAND AGENT (96) (BF) (D I Bere) J Mulins B 10 7.... brown, white hoop, happed sleeves, arange cup dark blue, light blue stars, dark blue and ead hooped sleeves and cap -1 00001-BETTING: 11-4 Or Lewest, 7-2 Mr Strong Gale, 9-2 Even Flow, 13-2 The Land Agent, 8-1 Bitofactor.

up, 10-1 Chalfanger Du Luc, 12-1 Unguided Miselle, 20-1 1998: Super Tactics 10 10 10 A Thornton 4-1 (Fi Alner) 7 ran

FORM GUIDE Challenger du Luc: Fant-hearted runter-up in the 1997 King George over C&D. Clear-

ly best effort since when 4½ lengths third to Reson Mill at Ascot Crneff last week. Unguided Milesite: Best on sound surface, whining at Chellenham (3m11, good: he man target again) last March off the mark. Has not had ground to suit this term. Dr Leunt in excelent form, wide-margin winner on soft ground in arreal fields at Kemp-ton (sint) and Cheltenham (2m4); from in-form Storm Damoge), sith higher now then for letter, win Also attective on good ground. Clearly a leading contender Mir Strong Galle: Progressive efforts to be placed in top harticaps at Cheltenham (2) and Doncaster last three starts. Appeared to have race sewn up on the run-in at Don-caster (5m, good to soft) but then idled and let in Major Bell. 5tb higher here (has not won beyond 2m51/v(). Won four-runner race at Doncaster in December Even Flow: Four times a winner at around 2m41 here, including in 3-runner race in Decamber. Third to Unguided Missile at Chattenham appeared to show that he stayed n, but ran badly (patchy in cost, jumped poorly) behind Dr Leunt there last time in Land Agent: Often faces stiff tasks, but beat below-per mals well at Wincar COMBL soil in January, Creditable run rest time. First try at 3m, but should stay Chief's Song: Tough and consistent, often pritted against very smart rivels (badly hem-pered when 50-1 at Ascot last week). Having his first outing at 3m, and has had most of his races at 2m, but shapes nowadays as if well suited by at least 2m41

aboup: In first two in 5 of 9 starts in humas/novice chases, 11/4 lengths second Teparating it very cerms good to time, increasing out maxing seasons about VERDICT: Last year's renewal, when sent off the 6-4 terounts, was one of the most ignormous in a growing last of salures from Challenger Du Lue, who would probably win this on his best form. Passing him over, it is hand to get away from the in-form duo of Dr Lastest and MR STRONG GALE, the fetter gaining narrow preference. Even Flow has shaped on several occasions as if capable of pulling off a big prize such as this, but his tested effort really was a poor one. The Land Agent and Chief's Song cannot be written off atthough they are stopping to in tip, but both Unguided Missalle and Bitofambusp may be seen to better effect at Chefrenham next month.

4.40 MONEY STORE RENDLESHAM LIMITED HTCAP HURDLE (Grade 2) (A) \$20,000 3m 110yds \$12,224

Minimum weight: 10sr 7h: True handicap weights: Pharmees, Arcum 10st, Lord Jim 8st 6ib, Dom Bel-sons at 10o, Not's Plant at 5b, Sub-min Int Vo BETTING: 3-1 Printwell, 7-2 Pharmees, 9-2 Dom Bellmano, 5-1 Ocean Hawk, Ivo'a Fluties, 10-1 Ancum, 10-1 Lord Jan, 15-1 Subminiments 1998 Buckhouse Boy 8 10 12 A Thomston 10-3 (D Nicholson) & ran

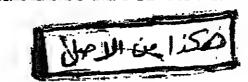
FORM GUIDE

Pridwell: The form choice after his plucky win over Istabraq at Aintree (2m4), heavy) in April, but backward and well below his best in two runs this term. Stays 3m Ocean Harelc Dour stayer who railied to get third in Grade 1 at Cheltenham less March Smitt, good). Below form this term and this may not be a sufficient text of stamina Phenaneer: Won this in 1997, Missed last term and not so good as he was judged on four runs this term. Fine chance if improving on that, Effective on sound surface Anzare; Another who missed last season strough highly, Has tailed to figure in two good races this term, and might need it soft anyway even if back to his best Lord Jim: Game winner at Chepstow, Cheltenham and Sandown last term looking a good staying prospect. Poor reappearance effort was down to putled muscles Dom Beltranct in good form, unlike nearly all of his rivate. Pared in 3mit hardicaps at Unioseer and Newbury to Plying Gurner) on soft surface last two starts look of Flutter: Come-from-behind nandicapper, winner of nowce event at Ascot (2mst. arthitest teasons.) Some on Election behaviored in the prospect of the power of the prospect of the prospect of the behaviored the prospect of the prospect of the prospect of the behavior of the prospect of (3m1f, good). Below form this term and this may not be a sufficient test of staming fvor's Flutter: Come-from-behind nandicapper, winner of novice event at Ascol (2m/t, soft) lest January, Stayer on Flat but below form on three tree, at 3m over hundles itly in good form this term, but at hunely lower i fore coming third to Teastral here (2m51) lest time, and 3m will suit him better VERDICT: All except PRIDWELL and Ocean Hawk are out of the handicap proper and by 7b and upwards. This track without testing ground does not look an ideal test for Ocean Hawk, who so often gets going too late, so Pridwell is given the benefit of the doubt after his two imprusty efforts this season. Pharameter is the chief dan-

ger from among the rest on form, but Lord Jim still has pot 5.15 KEMPTON STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,750 added 2m Penalty Value £1,473

ctus Lady, 6-1 No Tale To Tell. 10-1 Cop-

FORM VERDICT The weight-for-ege acide tayours the four-year-olds (who receive 4b more from their sentors than if the race was run under Flat rules) – Usk Velley and Sanctus Lady are potentially very missesting newcomers – but the value could be with the expensives and proven abiny of SCARLET EMPEROR. Jerny Primaria golding looked districtly out of the ordinary first time out and may be best forgiven his subsequent failure.



THE INDEPENDENT

Dunne

ready to go on Holiday

BY GLYN LEACH

LIVE BOXING returns to a Saturday night ITV slot for only the second time in four years tonight - and the network hopes there will be no repeat of the comedy of errors that marred last October's broadcast from Liverpool.

That night, a board beneath the ring canvas came loose, providing a work surface more treacherous than anything featured on Match of the Day's simultaneous transmission (Stamford Bridge notwithstanding).

But boxing is a proven winner in the TV ratings war and while the 10 million-plus viewing figures of Chris Euband, Nigel Benn and Naseen Hamed remain a distant dream, ITV sees the three million who tuned into Shea Neary's World Boxing Union light-welterweight (10 stone) title defence last autumn as an encouraging base.
The network's association

with the Liverpool promoters, Munro-Hyland Brothers, and the Norfolk-based WBU is based on solid matchmaking rather than star names, a trend continued this evening when Colin Dunne defends his WBU lightweight (9st 9lb) title against South Africa's Phillip Holiday.

Dunne's "Dynamo" nickname sums him up, while "No Deal" perfectly describes the uncompromising manner of Holiday, a former International Boxing Federation champion thought to be the world's premier lightweight until he met boxing's best body-puncher, Sugar Shane Mosley. But Holiday's only defeat in 35 fights remains the one occasion that an opponent has survived 12

rounds with the Californian. Tonight will mark Dunne's 20th appearance at Bethnal Green's York Hall, but venue familiarity is unlikely to help the transplanted Scouser against his most experienced opponent to date. The workrate of Holiday, a part-time triathlete, should allow him to edge an exciting encounter on points.

Also tonight, the East Lo don middleweight, Jason Matthews, travels to Oldham in search of his first major title when he challenges Sheffield's seasoned Paul "Silky" Jones, the Commonwealth champion, on a Frank Warren promotion televised by Sky. But the former World Boxing Organisation champion Jones should be too varied for the 'Method Man' from Hackney and should re-

TODAY'S NUMBER 8,500,000

The number of rupees (£75,000) it cost to build a gymnasium for Sri Lanka's top 200 cricketers. The state-of-the-art facility was opened

Garnett

intoff t nturion ight spa

'El Gato' slams door on Norman IT IS a precarious business holding a ticket for a reserved BY ANDY FARRELL seat around the 18th green at

a matchplay tournament, Matches can easily end out in the country but, on Thursday at La Costa, the 18th was the only place to be. While the upsets continued in the second round of the Andersen Consulting World Matchplay Championship, the drama level upped considerably.

Within moments there were two approach shots played at the last that will enter folklore, should this new event ever take a place its place in history. There was one theory abounding that a tournament does not take on true significance unless Greg Norman has blown a certain victory, by

SECOND ROUND! SCORES

US unless stated -ranked player listed first th (Fiji) lost to B Langer (Ger)

N Price (Zim) lost to J Maggert 1 hole Leonard lost to S Maruyama (Japan) Azinger, lost to L Roberts 2 and 1 P Mickelson bt L Janzen 2 and 1

C Parry (Aus) lost to S Cink 3 and 2 P Sioland (Swe) bt C Franco (Par) 1 E Romero (Arg) bt G Norman (Aus) at

C Stadler lost to J Huston

T Woods bt B Tway 1 hole A Magee bt T Bjorn (Den) 2 and 1

S Pate bt B Jobe 1 hole 5 Jones bt 5 Verplank 5 and 4 F Couples bt S Hoch 1 hole M Bradley lost J M Olazabai (Sp) 2 and 1 in Carlsbad, California

well on the way to becoming the fifth major.

Norman, who has lost playoffs for all four majors and has had as many titles ripped away from him as he has had handed on a plate, was at it again in his second-round match against Eduardo Romero.

The Argentinian, known as 'El Gato', should have been devoured by the Shark when Norman was three up with four to play. The Australian, in fact. had led from the very first hole and it looked as if Romero's sole contribution to the event was to be knocking out Lee Westwood

No doubt if Romero and Norman had been playing in the final group of, say, the third round of a regular strokeplay tournament, Romero would have gone quiet, perhaps hoping to get on a roll the following day. But, there being no tomorrow for the loser. Romero had no option but to go on allout attack. He birdied the 15th to get one hole back and then was handed another when Norman bogeyed the next.

The 17th was halved in parfives which meant Romero came to the last one down. For his second shot, Romero had 169 yards to the flag into the wind. His seven-iron finished a foot from the hole and the birdie took the match into extra time. The 44-year-old from Cordoba, a veteran of the European



tour, had a hole-in-one at the Qatar Masters a week ago which he described as "the best shot of my life" but he has swiftly had to upgrade the designation. "It had a little fade, left-to-right, perfect, perfect,"

"That shot was as good as any I have seen," added Norman. The Australian almost lost the contest at the second extra bole when his drive hit a cart path and bounced out of bounds but Romero missed his par putt. Faced with a 20-foot putt for birdie at the short third, Romero had no further mistake.

said. "You never know in matchplay what is coming on. I am a very hard guy when playing the matchplay. I have beat-en two very good players and have a lot of confidence." The further he can progress in the tournament, the better his chances of reaching the top 50 in the world and an invitation to the US Masters. "It is my dream to play in the Masters.

Thomas I'CA

would be fantastic." Patrik Sjoiand could also be making his debut at Augusta and, later in the year, at the Ryder Cup. The Swede will

I have never played there so it

qualifying points after beating Carlos Franco in the second round with another dramatic comeback. Sioland was three down with seven to play before producing a remarkable spell of

ball-striking. Sjoland hit a seven-iron to 18 inches to win the 12th, a nineiron to three feet to win the 15th, squared the match by holing from 20 feet at the 17th and hit a six-iron from 170 yards to less than a foot at the last, a shot every bit as good as Romero's. "I just can't believe it," the 27-year-old Swede said. "That stretch is definitely the best I shot a 59 to win his second tourpick up a generous helping of have ever played. I knew it nament in a row, was never

would take my best golf ever over the last seven holes to win and I managed it."

Bernhard Langer and Jose Maria Olazabal also made it through to the third round for Europe but Tiger Woods, remarkably, was the only top-10 seed to make it. Woods only did so in another dramatic finish at the 18th, when Bob Tway missed a seven-footer to extend

But the pretender to Woods' world No I crown, David Duval, was removed by Bill Glasson. 2 and 1. Duval, who last month

ahead and missed from eight foot for a par on the 17th to get

the game alive.
"I didn't play particularly
well and you get what you deserve when you don't play well," Duval said. He will take the next three weeks off, which will probably include his favourite relaxing pastime of snow-boarding in the Idaho moun-

"Everybody knows I'm not the biggest proponent of this format but beyond that I don't want to say anything because it makes me sound like I'm crying and I'm not. I got beaten and

left despite smacking into a rock in his Ford Focus on the dusty, potholed roads south of the capital. "I can't believe that we're still going because the impact was so large," said McRae, searching for his first points of tain his title on points.

wive that " McRae's team managed to repair the car at a service halt and the Scot responded with the second fastest time on the final stage to be well in contention for podium finish.

the campaign. The Focus must be built like a tank if it can sur-

Makinen was fastest on the last timed section, but is more Timbuktu, Burns cut the deficit than 13 minutes adrift and facing a huge task to complete a third victory in succession which would extend his 13-point

Finland's triple world champand longest stage of the day ——ion hit problems on the opening stage when simultaneous punclead. McRae is less than two tures to his rear tyres left him

yesterday in Colombo.

Tough task for Saints

IF ELLERY HANLEY has a RUGBY LEAGUE? mantra as a coach, it is mental toughness. His side. St Helens. will have to show an abundance of that quality if they are Leeds side Hanley once to survive their Silk Cut Challenge Cup fifth-round tie at

Leeds this afternoon. Hanley has shown one sort. of toughness by leaving out his that the mental toughness is best winger, Anthony Sullivan. obviously displeased at his individual being given permission by the club to play rugby union for Wales A recently. It is a surprising and potentially damaging decision, especially as there could still be sufficient doubt over the fitness of Kevin iro for him to be named as a

substitute. Saints will need all the potential match-winners they can muster against a side that a firm hand if ever there was showed the depth of character and determination that Leeds beneficiaries. did against Wigan in the last

round. That seemed to mark a step

BY DAVE HADFIELD

captained. No one could have set a more pointed example as player and unofficial part-time coach. The difference now is institutional rather than

Tomorrow's ties represent a first serious test for two more clubs with reason to think that this could be the season when they turn the corner. Malcolm Reilly will already

have transformed attitudes at Huddersfield, last season's bottom club in Super League, and the word is that Bobbie Goulding, a player who needs one, has been one of the main

They have a tricky task, however against a revamoed Salford side that will have drawn great forward on even last season's encouragement from the style form - and certainly on the in which they dispatched the to Belle Vue being full and been to Wembley.

Cup-holders, Sheffield, in the last buzzing, even if it is mainly with round.

> Warrington, their financial problems now behind them and a squad on board that looks high on quality if not on numbers. Their coach, Darryl van de Velde, does not share the sus-

picion that their opponents, Halifax, might have peaked last season. They did very well last year

to finish third, but their best football could be in front of them. They have been a very consistent side and they have bought well," he said.

There will be what their coach, Andy Kelly, admits will be a "weird atmosphere" at Wakefield, where a good threequarters of the tickets have • era Ford Premiership will qualbeen snapped up by Bradword

supporters.
"To hear them talk, they are bringing 10,000 and will outnumber us by 15 to one," said

ATHLETICS

their supporters." Trinity have already suffered There is also a buzz at

one thrashing from the Buils this year in a pre-season friendly. But far from demoralising us, that has just encouraged us by showing us what we have to aim for," Kelly said. He is without long-term

injury victims Martyn Holland and Vince Fawcett, but has his captain, Tony Kemp, fit, while Bradford could be without Robble Paul. The London Broncos run

the danger of being the likeliest victims of an upset. Their tie at Hull KR is the sort of fixture in which they have proved fallible in the past. Whatever happens there, at

least two teams from the Northify for the quarter-finals. Two clubs that have won the Cup meet at Widnes, where Leigh are the visitors, while Whitehaven host Oldham in a contest Kelly. "Im just looking forward between two that have never

Road to Timbuktu takes Burns in right direction RICHARD BURNS thrust his RALLYING

way into the lead of the Safari Rally at the end of a dramatic day in Kenya, Burns, who won the event last year is nearly 27 seconds ahead of Spain's Carlos Sainz, with fellow Briton Colin McRae well placed in third.

However the world champion, Tommi Makinen, is more than 13 minutes adrift while team-mate Freddy Loix was tucky to escape serious injury after a crash as Mitsubishi's hopes of a record seventh successive rally victory faltered.

Loin was airlifted to Naironi hospital after he hit a ditch at 100mph, but escaped with a sore neck after his car ended up upside down on the road.

"He is going to be fine," said the rally's chief medical officer, Dr Sudhir Vinayak, "There are no major injuries."

Loix will stay in hospital overnight as a precautionary measure while co-driver Sven

Smeets escaped without injury from the crash on the third stage yesterday. Burns showed why he was

being tipped pre-season as a title favourite with an expert display in the Subaru, having claimed his maiden victory on the Safari 12 months ago in a Mitsubishi. The 28-year-old from Oxford, who has just two championship points from the opening two rallies, took over at the top of the leaderboard on the first stage. Sainz responded on the next

section, but, then on the road to to less than seven seconds with another fastest time. Burns, who rejoins Subaru as replacement for McRae, then eclipsed lead in the championship. Sainz by 53 seconds on the last around 70 miles - to regain the

THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Assessment Consideration Consideration Price Discussions Crystal Pediato 0 tension Form J per Crossly Formy, Resum Langua Season Districts Adventic 2 Season Consideration Principal Season Consideration of Thursday Salary country of the Consideration of Thursday Salary country of the Consideration of Consideration Consideratio

minutes behind with two days stranded for over 10 minutes.

PSPORTING DIGEST:

15-6 15-5 Group B: D Karcono and B A Antonius (Indon) br J Enksee and J Lansen (Den) 15-9 15-6: T Guanarean and H Haten (Indon) bt C Hunt and S Archer (Eng) 15-10 15-2 Woosser's deablest Group A: J Goode and D Kefong (Eng) bt H Massula and Y Iwata (Japan) 15-11 15-5. Fel and Gu Jun (Ch) bt A Ingressment and M Marry (Den) Am (Ch) bt A languages and M Varge (Den) 15-13 15-8 Group Be H Naman and V Visi (Ch) bt H Kirlespard and P Harder (Den) 15-6 10-15 15-8: M Thomser and R Oben (Den) scr N Eliza and D Lomban (Indon) w/o. BASKETRALL

Scormento 115 Washington 105: Indiana 81 Cleveland 74; New York 115 Minnesona 113 (ot): Philodelphia 98 Chicago 80; Daltas 90 Denner 81; Adanta 91 Houston 87; Process 94 Vancasser 86. 91 Houston #7: Process 94 Variant LA Lakers 115 LA Oxppers 100. BOWLS

rison or Strike 71-20. Him: Et infelhelt 2114; Rickman bt Barber 21-13 Semi-finale; C. Hirom (Bostom) br A Hill (More Park) 215. Sinchman (Ring George Freid) br D Hum: (Blockpool Newtom Hall) 27-9. Unbadged palline, finat: rounds: C. Anderson and N. Hyan (Pruck Arthur) bt E. Parkes and P. Packhann (Hardepool) 28-6; M. Eliett and S. Harrickt (SCA) bt D Sinth, and P Hatz (Donyage) 2215. A Rechead and S. Chitton North bt. 5 Dudson and 3 Sirrel (Newment) 24-22. M. Tierch and D. Bantock (Desborough Rhadhead) bt. J. Herriky and S. Elssert (Rhillegs) 21-15. Onarter-finales R. Calect and R. Lodas-Smith (Romerlands) bt. A Lewest and E. Bantes (Galicit) 22-12; USBSSON and J. North (Philades) bt. C. and A. Gowshall (Louth) 19-17 [unferentred end.). G. Tarderel and D. Rigot (Newton) bt. W. McMillan and D. Wood (Dawd Lloyd Club) 28-14; P. Pecchey and M. Rever (Benttum) bt. V. and C. Stroce (Lawson Park) 25-9.

Warren, the promoter, is shortly to announce a venue for Lloyd's second world title fight. CYCLING

Marco Pantani, the Tour de France champion, has criticised this summer's route by claiming that it favours time-trialers. The 29-year-old Italian, who is a natural climber, has added to the doubt surrounding the participation. ing his participation. If won the tour last year on a course which was not favourable to me. I hoped for a bet-

favourable to me. I hoped for a better route this year but it wasn't the case," Pantani said. "The rour is the most important in the world and because of that it must take the inders into account, Without the riders the tour is nothing."

TOUR OF WALENCIA Thursday's Take stage (170km, puerto de Sagmen en Barrats Pla de Limens, Spair 1 M Boogerd Nethy Rabobank the 38min 37sc. 2 A Visionauros (Raca) Casan +2xc. 3 M Bell Ry Festina +5; 4 J Paccual Rodriguez (Spi Keime: 5 C M Moder (Den) 17kh, 6 S Becero (Co) Rotme: 7 M Barroll (R) Muspel +20; 8 P Becton tri Mapel: 9 A Rudev (Coza) Festina. 10 D Miller (De) Colkis aliane time. Overall standings: 1 Visionauro 1 3hr 12min 18ac; 2 Pascual Rodriguez +3sec. 3 Bes. 4 Borero: 5 Moder +16; 6 Boogerd +18; 7 Barroll +31; 8 Miller 17.

EUROPEAN WOMEN'S CLUSS BIDDOR CHAMPIONSHIP (Makis Half, Glasgow) First round Group A: Russchleiner (Ger) 5 CPCS Moscow (Rus) 4. Sooks (Lin) 6 Car-craf (Fr) 3. Group B: Real Sociedad (So) 6 chomotine Rack (Shoro) 4: Slough (Eng) 8 diasgow Western (Sco) 2.

ICE HOCKEY IGHL: Boston 3 New Jersey 3 (or); Toronto 4 NV Islanders I.: Ottawa 3 Montreal 1; Phis-burgh 3 Colorado 2. THE INSTANCES N O R D I C S K I I N G

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS [Ramsan,
Aet] Men's Art 16km Crees-centry relay: 1 Austria IM Gandler, A Stadlober, M
Botwino, C Hoffmann) Ihr 35mm 07 5sec.
2 Normay (E Blevvig, E Jevne, B Daehle, T
Augsterd) 1:35:07.17 3 toaly (G DI Centa, F
Valbusa, F Maj, S Fauner) 1:36:38.1; 4 Germany (A Schlaeister, A Nechmann, J Neuber,
M Knother) 1:36:53.9; 5 Finland (H Khresmiena, M. Mydyla, 5 Repo. J Sometsa)
1:36:56.3; 6 Sweden (A Bergstorder), N Jonsson, P Bofsson, M Fredriksgon J 1:37:50.9;
7 Russia (M Manox, A Prokuroro, 5 KrignIn, V Milson) 1:36:05.6, 8 Czech Republic
I, Bauer, V Korunka, J Magsal, A Konkar)
1:39:51.3, 9 Switzerland (W Aschwander,
8 Koch, P Maechler, P Roell) 1.40:02.2; 10
Estonia (A Veerpalu, R Cite, M Assrose, J Mae)
1:40:15.7.

NORDIC SKIING

RALLYING

RALLYING

WORLD CHARP-ON-SHIP THIRD

ROUND: SAPARI RALLY (Memps) Thersday's 1.5-mile apedal stages 1 I Kanday's 1.5-mile apedal stages 1 I Kandayes (1-1-m) Sebaru (mpreza Triin 53.4sec.

2 R Burns (GB) Subaru (mpreza Triin 53.4sec.

3 C Sainz (Sp) Royota Corotta +01.1; 4 C

McRie (GB) Ford Foous +01.2; 5 P Light;

[Ri Rest +02.0. Vesterday's first legs 1

R Burns (GB) Subaru 2th 50-min 6 2sec. 2

C Sainz (Sp) Royota +26.7sec, 3 C McRec

[GB] Ford 1:56.2; 4 D Aurol (Fr) Royota

6 18.6; 5 1 Makinen (Fri) Missibehi 12.11.6;

6 P Listi (x) SEXT 15.26.2; 7 P Soberg (Nor)

Ford 19.48.1; 8 1 Dumcan (Ben) Royota

21.43 S, 9 H Royonpera (Fri) SEXT 26.36.2;

10 H Al Wahabi (Oman) Missibehi 27.20 2.

RUGBY UNION

Gregori Kacala, Cardiff's Polish No 8, becomes a first-time Barbar-ian when he plays for the club in the annual Mobbs Memorial match against East Midlands next Wednes-day afternoon.

ARBARIANS (v East Midles Medineedhy): L Criscoolo (Coentry): G Wystz (Pontypridd). T Waish (Heoly). L Calourius (Watsonars). H Thorresycroft (Northampton): B Hayward (Llanelli), R Moos (Llanelli): M Fosids (Cambridge Univ), K McKeszle (Casgow Caledonians), S Cronk (Newport). G Hayster (Wetso-nians). K Withdrigs (Coventry), R Waln-wright (Watsonians). G Racela (Cardiff), P Withams (Cardiff). SUPER 12 SERIES (Christchurch, NZ): Canterbury Crusaders 48 Walkato Chiefs

SAILING

Britain's quest for the Louis Vuitton Cup this October, to find the challenger for America's Cup 2000, was given a boost this week when a team of boat builders was flown in from New Zealand to the British base in Wasmouth

isse Kijus, the World Cup leader, has withdrawn from two races sched-uled for this weekend because of flu.

SNOOKER LIVERPOOL VICTORIA CHARITY CHAL-LENGE (Darby) First round: A McMarus (Sco) bt D bylor (pith) 5-1. Osarbur-Brais: J Higgins (Sco) or 5 Casis (Eng) 5-0; K Do-herty (iri) bt M Fu (HK) 5-4

TENNIS GUARDIAN DIRECT CUP (Battersen) Ment's singles quarter-flanks: R Krajlook (Neth) bt K Kucera (Slovak) 6-1 6-3; G Rusedski (GB) bt T Ellqvist (Sweden) 7-5 4-6 6-3.

SUPERTHREFT CLASSIC (OKIAboma SUPERTHREFT CLASSIC (OKIAboma City): Bloomen's slugics second round: Williams (US) bt K Fo (US) 6-1 7-6; A Coctoer (SA) bt E Wagner (Ger) 6-1 6-3; L Oscerion (US) bt M Sacki (Japan) 6-4 6-3; C Black (Zim) bt A Dechaume-Balleret (Fr) 7-6 7-6.

Balleret (Fr) 7-6 7-6, PARES WOMEN'S INDOOR OPEN: Singles second round: A Cocheteus (Fr) bt 1 Spiries (Rom) 6-4 6-2. Casarear-fi-sal: D Van Roost (Bel) bt E Likhovtseva (Rus) 7-5 6-0; N Dechy (Fr) bt A Cocheteus (Fr) 6-1 4-6 6-1.

Williams proves far too powerful for Po

VENUS WILLIAMS opened the defence of her first WTA Tour singles title with a 6-1, 7-6 win over Kimberly Po in the second round of the IGA Superthrift Classic in Oklahoma City. Williams, runner-up to Jana

the world and is top seed in the event she won a year ago. The third seed, Amanda Coetzer of South Africa, romped

of Zimbabwe, also made it into the quarter-finals by beating seed, Anna Kournikova, and

Ballert 7-6, 7-6. Williams hit a 116mph ace on the first point of her match and the first set, 6-1. The second set advantage of five double faults. Civalia on 17 and 18 April

three of them in the final game

a record in the first set," Po said. "I didn't even see her first serve. Novotna in the Faber Grand I had never played her and it took Prix last week, is ranked No 5 in a while for me to adjust. Her movement is a big weapon. She is tall and most players that big don't move well."

past Elena Wagner; of Germany, dra Stevenson in the quarter-fi-Lilia Osterloh, a qualifier "Kim hits the ball flat and low ranked 119th, continued to ad- and that is out of my [strike] vance with a 6-4, 6-3 win over zone." Williams is the only seed-Japan's Miho Saeki. Cara Black, ed player left in her side of the draw while Coetzer, the second France's Alexia Dechaume- fifth seeded Chanda Rubin are

Venus and her sister Serena were among 10 players selected needed just 22 minutes to take to the US Fed Cup team by captain Billie-Jean King, Lindsay was a struggle for Williams as Po Davenport will play in the firstbroke her serve once and took round Fed Cup match against

that forced the be-breaker "I thought I was going to set

Williams, who meets Alexannals, was pleased with the win. all in the other haif.

ATHLETICS
STOCKHOLM INDOOR BUESTING COM(Thurnday) NERN-60xxx 1 E Aksars.in Crui5-Sisc. 2 D Alix (Nigeria) 6:61:3 S Emmatuel (Nigeria) 6:67-4 400xx Az 1 C
Postniger (Nuc) 46.77. 2 S Bada (Nigeria)
47.23.3 J Scatscelt (Sove) 47.93 Addres Ba18 (Natrio (Exr) 46.7 2.2 M McDonaid (Larry
46.90:3 S Wartso (GB) 46.97 800xx 1 N
Tellez (Cuba) 1 47.02. 2 R Chirchir (Ken)
1 47.12:2 S V Rodal (Nor) 1-47.20 1500xx
1 1 Roctich (Ken) 3.33-32. 2 D Leter (Ken)
3.39:20:3 A Hakam (Lur) 3.39-52. 3.000xx
1 P Birtok (Ren) 7.49 12: 2 E Gourche Abdethalk (Mon) 7.51:78; 3 V Ferdinando (It) 3.39:20: 3 A Hakum (fun) 3.39:52; 3.000m; 1 P Biroh (hen) 7.49:12: 2 E Gourche Abdelhak (Mon) 7.51:78: 3 V Ferdinando (htg 7.51:98 Gos. burdless ? C Hawkins (US) 7.54: 2 A Gurcla (Cuba) 7.56: 2 B Ross (US) 7.56: 2 A Gurcla (Cuba) 7.56: 3 M Buss (Ger) 2.26. heng lenne 1 i Pedrodo (Cuba) 8.34m; 2 i Bechnord (Lam) 8.31: 3 G Cantar (Sosial, 7.92 WOMEN'S Gome 1 G Devers (US) 7.03: 2 S Fyrnes (Bahwin) 7.07, 3 P Mensah (Can) 7:19 400m; 15 Richards (Lam) 52:30; 2 U Urbarsky (Ger) 52:96: 3 O Attolati (Nigeria) 52:95: 7,000m; 1 M Mutola (Moz) 2:30; 24 (Burdle Ger) 52:96: 3 O Attolati (Nigeria) 52:96: 7,000m; 1 M Mutola (Moz) 2:37: 31: 3 V Buzheriko (Uto) 2.37:87 Long Jeurge 1 M Christowa (Bul) 6.36m; 2 C Johansson (Spre) 6.35: 3 Z Alkier (Hun) 1.30 Pole sastis: 1 N Humbert (Ger) 4.56m (hoorid record), 2 2 Szabo (Hun) 4.41: 3 T Elsdottir (Ice) 4.31.

BADMINTON

MORLD GRAND PROX (Brunn) Floats:
Meen's sleptes: Group Ar P G Ortsvensen
(Den) br Oren Gang (Ch) 15-6 15-7: R Stdek
(Malay) br I Arbansson (Sane) 15-7: R Stdek
(Malay) br I Arbansson (Sane) 15-12 13-15
15-6, Group Bs Luo Yigang (Ch) br Ong Ewe
Hock (Malay) 15-4 15-1: H Arb (Indona) br
K Jonassen (Den) 12-13 15-8 15-6. Group C: Yong Hock Kin (Malay) bt H Hendrawan
(Indon) 2-15 15-13 15-7, Dong Jlong (Ch)
br I van DRI (Neth) 15-4 15-2. Group Br
B Santoso (Indon) bt Hastiam Rostin (Malay)
15-11 11-15 15-71: San Jan (Ch) br P E Hoyer-Larsen (Den) 15-8 15-5 Womeen's singier: Group Ar te Zhandin (Indon) 11-2 9-11
11-3. Group C: Da: Van (Ch) br C Martin
(Den) 13-11 11-6. Group Br Gong Zhichao
(Ch) br Y Mizzu (Japan) 11-6 11-1. Meen's
identibless Group Ar F Lampele and E Hort
(Indon) br Zhing Mich and Zhang (on) (Ch)
15-12 15-12. R Subaga and R Mainaky (Indon) br P Aretisson and P G Jonasson (Sere) BADMINTON

BOWLS

WOMEN'S ALL ENGLAND INDOOR
CHAMPIONSHIPS (Execut) Stagles,
First round: A Hill (Mote Park, Maddstone)
It C Northall (Teighbridge) 27-13; M Crane
(Cacton) br E Bessell (Newl) 21-19; K Strutt
(Eghan) br 5 Marthews (March) 21-18; C
Hom (Boston) br J Green (Dolphin) 21-11;
L Theheel (Hamp) Cross) br 8 Adderson
(Thomsby) 21-11; D Hurt (Blackpool Newton Hall) br A McPherson (Aron Valley) 2112: S Rickman (King George Field) br C
Ashby (Eastbourner 21-16; R Burber
(Paddington) br J Rovience (North Watsham)
21-9. Charter-Finalet: Hill br Crane 21-17;
Hom br Strutt 21-20; Hom br Thehvell 2114; Rickman br Barber 21-13 Sanol-Finalet;
C Horm (Boston) br A Hill (March Park) 21C Horn (Boston) br A Hill (March Park) 21-

BOXING Merseyside's Paul Lloyd is aiming to fight Marco Antonio Barrera, the World Bosing Organisation super-bantamweight champion, Frank

FOOTBALL The England Under-21 team will play their next European Championship qualifier apainst Poland on Friday 26 March at Southampton.

**A CARCING PREMIERSHIP Flature changes: Mos 12 April: Leeds v Liverpool (fram 10 April): Sen 18 April Cheisa v Liversey; Mos 19 April April: with the change of the c

GOLF
TUSCON OPEN (Arbonn) Landing Birst round scores (US maleus states): 54 RW Ests. 63 T Scherre. 66 T Jobes. 1 Herron. D Danales, I Kelly. 67 G Hjersteck (Swe). 5 Flexch, D Paolson, R Alentry (Aug.). 68 P/o-lansson (Swe). 5 Lyle (GB). I Girlagher Iv. Al Birsky, K Myanoto (Japan). P Goydos, S Gamp, D Toms. PH Horpan, N Welc. 68 R Volco (Japan). PD D Force (SA). G Matte (NZ). 72 E locab (Mod.). Ph Obbig (NZ). 73 F Allent (SAL). 76 B Hughes (Aug.).
AUSTROLIAN WOODER'S MASTER'S (Gold Count) Landing swoond round source (Ammaleus Sances): 136 K Whoth 63 F 7. 134 S A Eathorne (Em) 65 70; L Kane (Car) 68 67. 134 Crafter 68 66; Moodie (GB) 67 67. 135 A) Eathorne (Em) 65 70; L Kane (Car) 68 67. 136 Locabes (US) 66 68 C Varnarad (Japan) 68 69. 138 J McGill (US) 66 70; A Nacholas (GB) 68 70. 139 H Siegam (US) 67 75; E Dahlot (Sue) 69 70; L Usbes (US) 67 72; N Bowen (US) 69 70; N Lowlen 67 72; C Roch (Swe) 72 67; E Dahlot (Sue) 69 70; L Usbes (US) 71 C. Konf (Swe) 72 67; E Dahlot (Swe) 73 C. Konf (Swe) 72 67; E Dahlot (Swe) 73 C. Konf (Swe) 72 67; E Dahlot (Swe) 73 C. Konf (Swe) 72 67; E Dahlot (Swe) 73 C. Konf (Swe) 72 67; E Dahlot (Swe) 73 C. Konf (Swe) 72 67; E Dahlot (Swe) 73 C. Konf (Swe) 72 67; E Dahlot (Swe) 73 C. Konf (Swe) 72 67; E Dahlot (Swe) 73 C. Konf (Swe) 73 C. Konf (Swe) 74 67; E Dahlot (Swe) 74 C. Konf (Swe) 74 67; E Dahlot (Swe) 74 72; K Washew 70 71; H Dobson 72 69; 148 K Marshab 72 71; L Qwies 71 72; 145 5 Senid-wick 75 70; 146 D Red 70 76. HOCKEY

DAY'S LATE RESULTS: Selonda sague London Knights 2 Brachell Nothingham Panthers 2 Manchester

The Five Nations' Championship march between Scotland and Ireland at Murrayfield on Saturday 20 March is a 67,000 self-out.

The section.

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By Garnett, out of Hogarth, in the money

AS RESEARCHER'S jobs go, it can't have been the hardest assignment in the world to locate a bookie who's a bit of a character, but whoever found Barry Denois for Modern Times: abolcies Never Lose (BBC2, Wednes-ay) still deserves a bonus for ies Never Lose (BBC2, Wednes unearthing such a corker

The first glimpse we get of him conveys exactly the right impression. He's bombing down a contorted country lane about the width of a blood vessel, his hand jammed down on the horn. "That's a short cut, that is," he says as he emerges just about unscathed. "Saves 30 sec-

onds. Takes 10 years off your life." A cross between Alf Garnett and Barbara Windsor's gentleman friend in EastEnders, middle-aged Essex man redrawn by Hogarth, Barry is the punters' dosh.



"Change money take prices, and win," he says cheerfully. "That's how easy this game is "

A brush with the coronary artery police warned him off the lifestyle that was killing him. He used to "get up at nine, go to the races, finish at five, into Romford dogs until 10.30, home 10.45. The wife knew there had to be a bottle of scotch, a bottle of lemonade, a bigjug of ice, a pound of steak, two fried eggs, pounds and pounds of chips, six slices of bread and but-

ter. I'd knock out the bottle of scotch by half past midnight and go to bed." Surprise, surprise, "after 15 years of that, in the middle of the night I woke up and felt queasy." Well, yes. Following his doctor's advice saved his life, he reckons, though you sus-pect the main pillar of his health plan involved his wife consuming more greens. A few minutes later, they're eating together, she nibbles at a

pounds and pounds of chips. He talks about the golden age in the 1950s and 60s, when tipsters did not have the information they do today. "Punters were throwing it away," be says. "I joined in the 70s, the good old days - the XJ10 Jag, mixing with the toffs, St Trop in the summer, skiing twice in the winter They were the 70s.

rocket salad while he's polishing off

a big lump of steak, two fried eggs and

But not that hard up, despite the film's best efforts to be balanced about protestations of poverty. In the kitchen at home, he explains why he's only minor league: the bread bin's the grandstand, a sliced loaf is Tattersall's, a tomato's the winning post and the cherries are the bookies. Unless you're right at the front you're shafted. He's been waiting 29 years to get one of the prime sites.

There is hope, though, as hered-itary pitches are to be abolished, and Barry is desperate for a sniff of the serious money. As one of his colleagues puts it: "What I need is not only all the bookmakers to die but the sons as well. My all-time prayer is something like a terrorist attack at Ascot, or the stand falling in."

"I didn't say that," says Barry, happy for once to be upstaged. "I just hope they all pass away quietly."

Though we see him take seven grand from one race, his wife is unimpressed when he comes home with the wedge. "That's not ours," she says, "It's there to be lost." And a few shots later, as he loses £6,500 -"sorry about that," says one punter as he walks off with three thousand - Barry turns to the camera, happy to be vindicated: "You satisfied?"

He is not above tawdry little stunts like getting his niece and her mate to hang around his pitch dressed in bodypaint - though you wonder how much of it was about putting on a decent show for the telly people. At Royal Ascot he fetches up in a ridiculous all white number, like something left on the cutting room floor by Peter Greenaway. Still, poncey though he looks and entertaining though he is, even he can't surpass the antics of the trashed toffs around him.

"My accountant won't go any-more," he says. "His wife said, This is the last time I'm going to Royal Ascot. The last time, we went into the car park and there was a comple fornicating ... That's what happens at Royal Ascot: you go out posh and you come back cockney." Indeed, the sight of Middle England making a paralytic ass of itself is worth a

docusoap of its own. Even better for Barry, in a postscript we learn that being given £250,000 by a "friend", whatever that means, has enabled him to acquire 12 front-line pitches. "We're out of the mire," he says, "we're up and running. There's food on the table tonight. What colour are my trousers?" he asks, turning his back-side to the camera. "All right?"

I don't know what odds Barry was giving about Kevin Keegan becomAfter seeing Ghana win last year's Inner City World Cup (Fusion, C4, Sunday), it's clear what the FA has

to do next to fill the Job From Hell. The Ghanaians, you see, had six managers. That's not one manager-in-chief and five glorified kit men; it's six gaffers, enjoying equal status and an inability to agree on anything, the team's progress punc-

tuated by bursts of managerial aggro. When it gets too much the players get confused," one of them yells, and though it was hard to disagree. it did not stop them beating Bangladesh to take the title. As the winners danced round the pitch, one of the Gang of Six revealed the real secret of their success: "We never say die until the balls are rotting," he says. "And have you ever

Flintoff the centurion is bright spark

ENGLAND A built on Andrew Flintoff's polished century by taking three early wickets to give them a healthy advantage at the halfway stage of their four-day tour match against Gauteng in Johannesburg

The Lancashire all-rounder made a career-best 145 to push his side towards a declaration at 447 for 9.

Graeme Swann, Dean Cosker and Darren Thomas then claimed a wicket apiece as Gauteng closed the second day at the Wanderers Stadium still 168 runs short of avoiding the follow-on.

There was an early disappointment for the tourists in the second over of the morning when Worcestershire's Vikram Solanki went to pull a short ball from the left-arm pace bowler Ross Veenstra only to drag the ball on to his stumps having

Swann included a quartet of well-timed fours in his brief innings of 18 before reaching wide outside off stump to touch a dau irdin veensua id iirst s Chris Read then joined Flintoff in a seventh-wicket

partnership which added 91 in 19 overs. Flintoff reached his hundred off 140 balls in 222 minutes. including 14 fours and a six, and

boosted the scoring rate sufficiently to enable the England A

BY MARK HARGREAVES in Johannesburg

England A 447-9 dec Gauteng 130-3

captain Michael Vaughan to declare in mid-afternoon.

Read was out for 38 but Fintoff then really cut loose and surged past his previous highest first-class score of 124 made against Northamptonshire last June.

At this stage Gauteng were forced to deploy a field with no fewer than eight men patrolling the boundary.

Flintoff was finally caught on the deep midwicket boundary off Zander de Bruyn having lofted the bowler for a straight six the previous ball. He had been in for 276 minutes, faced 176 balls and hit 18 fours and two stres.

There was still time for Thomas to stroke three fours before Paul Franks was out, after which Vaughan called a target of 298.

The pitch looked flat when the Gauteng batsmen began their reply until the introduction of the England spinners changed the complexion of the

Swann tempted the opener Adam Bacher to sweep but the

so far across his stumps that he was bowled behind his body for

Two more wickets then fell with the score on 91, with Sven Koenig trapped leg-before by Cosker one short of his 50 before Andre Seymore went back to Thomas next over only to see the ball drop down and roll on to his stumps.

It was left to Derek Crookes and De Bruyn to play out time against Swann and Cosker both of whom were getting appreciable turn.

Second day of three, England A won toss

id not bats D A Cosker

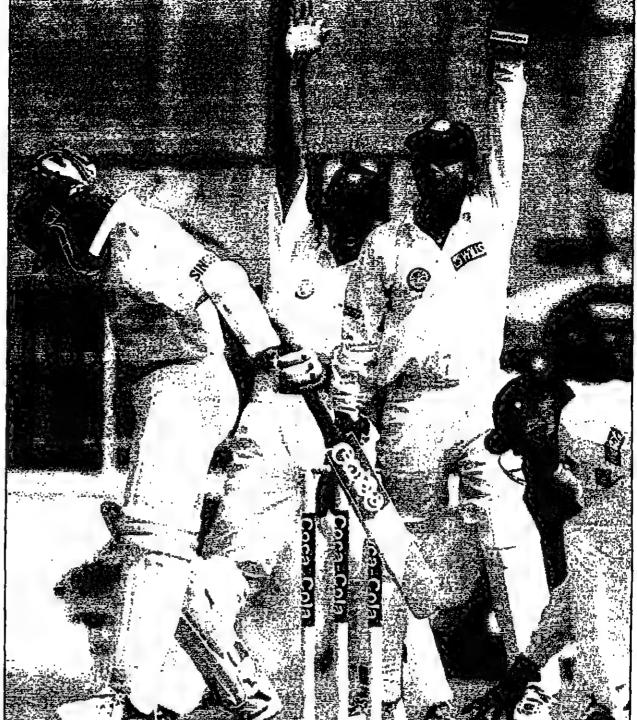
Boarfiag: Veenstra 25-7-57-2; Kid-weil 21-1-83-1; De Bruyn 22.2-6-81-s; Masimula 13-4-43-0; Crookes 24-4-84-0; Bodi 22-2-87-3; Bacher 1-0-4-0; Koenig 1-0-5-0.

GAI/TENG - First limings S G Koenig Ibw b Cosker 'A M Bacher b Swann Total (for 3, 49 over Fall: 1-31, 2-91, 3-91.

Masmula.

Bowling: Thomas 11-2-23-1; Franks
10-2-26-0; Swann 12-3-37-1; Cosker
11-4-23-1; Filntoff 5-1-15-0.

Umptress B Lambson and C School.



Sri Lanka's Mahela Jayawardene survives an appeal for lbw in the Asian Test Championship yesterday AFP

Dropped catches are costly for India

India 518-7 dec Sri Lanka 293-4

AN UNBEATEN century by Mahela Jayawardene frustrated India's attempt to take charge of the Asian Test Championship match against Sri Lanka in Colombo yesterday.

When bad light forced an early close to the third day the Sri Lankans were 293 for 4 in reply to India's first innings of 518 for 7 declared. Resuming at 121 for 2, they lost Chandika Hathurusingha and Aravinda de Silva during the morning session but made the Indian bowlers work hard for the rest of the day.

Jayawardene, who was on 59 overnight, made India pay for missed catches to complete his second Test century. He was unbeaten on 128 at the close having been dropped three times before he reached his hundred with a six off the offspinner Harbajan Singh. His century came off 209 balls and included one six and 17 fours. He shared a fifth-wicket stand of 115 with his captain, Arjuna Ranatunga, who was 66 not out at the close.

P A De Silva b A Singh. "A Ranatunga not out Extres (b1 to9 w4 nb8) Total (for 4, 95.2 overs)

Bowling (to date): Venkaresh Prasad 21-6-67-1 (1nb, 4w): Nehra 19.2-2-64-1 (7nb): Kumble 31-7-69-0, Harbajan Singh 22-6-77-1; Tendulkar 2-0-6-0.

OUOTES OF THE WEEK

My golf has been a bit like my singing - a mixture of karaoke and rap. It's called crap. Nick Faldo, before losing to Tiger Woods in the World Match Play Championship.

We're very disappointed. The dressing room is like a morgue.

Clive Woodward, England rugby union coach, admitting that **England's Calcutta Cup** victory against Scotland was not up to scatch.

There is no ideal candidate

for the England job. He has not been born. He does not exist. Derek Fazackeriey, on joining Kevio Keegan's England managerial team.

Inter are close to a nervous breakdown Internazionale spokesman on the club's state of bealth.

My right ear is 14 times its normal size and I have got a hoofprint on my arm. but apart from that I'm fine. Lorcan Wyer, jockey. after failing at Newcastle.

I was going at quite a high speed. The giraffe ust crossed in front of me. Carlos Sainz, of Spain, on the problems facing drivers in the Safari Rally in Kenya.

TODAY FOOTBALL 3.0 unless stated

SECOND DIVISION

THIRD DIVISION THIRD DIVISION
30 Barnet v Exeter
31 Brentford v Scarborough
32 Brighton v Leyton Orient
33 Cambridge Utd v Southend
34 Chester v Carlisle
35 Halffax v Hull
36 Harriepool v Rotherham
37 Mansfield v Scunthorpe
39 Mansfield v Scunthorpe

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

44 Ayr v Hibernian 45 Clydebank v Morton ...

SECOND DIVISION 49 Forfar v Partick

East File v Alloa

Inverness CT v Livingston THIRD DIVISION

Doncaster v Hereford
 Dover v Hoyes.
 Famborough v Kidderminster
 Hednesford v Leek FA UMBRO TROPHY Fifth round: Boston Utd v Altrincham; Cheltenham v Boston Utd v Altrincham; Cheltenham v Hendon; Dagenham & Redbridge v St Al-bans; Emley v Whiltby Town; Hitchin v For-est Green Rovers; Kingstonian v Yeovil; Northwich Victoria v Colwyn Bay; Wok-

V Legorernson; Berndantsing nowle resu-ing; Braistree Rown v Wernbley; Canwey Island v Croydon; Leyton Pennant v Staines Town; Maidenhead Utd v Bogn-or Regis Rown; Molesey v Romford; Ox-ford City v Grays Athletic; Urbridge v Manacalanic Werthino v Chersey Town.

UNIBOND LEAGUE Premier Dhisloa:
Accrington Stanley v Spernymoor; Bamber Bridge v Winsford Urd; Bishop Auckland v Lancaster: Chorley v Galeshead; Priching v Marine; Hyde Utd v Gulseley, Leigh RMJ v Blyth Spartans; Stalybridge Celide v Galnsborough Trinity; Worksop v Runcorn, First Dhislion: Alfreton Town v Filozon; Ashton Utd v Whitley Bay: Burscough v Bradford Park Avenue: Eastwood Town v Radcliffe Borough: Parsley Celtle v Congleton Town; Gretna v Droylsden; Harrogate Town v Hucknall Town; Matlock Town v Great Hatwood Town: Netherfield Kendal v Witton Albion: Trafford v Stockshridge.

Kendal v Witton Albion: Trafford v Stocksbridge.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Division: Bromsgrove Rovers v Salisbury: Docthester v Cambridge City; Gloucester City v King's Lym; Grantham v Rothwell Town; Gresley Rovers v Atherstone: Ilkeston Town v Crawley Town; Merthyr Tydfil v Numeaton Borough: Tamworth v Hastings; Weymouth v Burton Albion: Worcester City v Halesowen Town. Mid-tand Divisions: Bedworth Utd v Solbull Boro; Bliston Town v Blowwich Town; Cnderford Town v Shepshed Dynamo: Evesham Utd v Hinchley Utd: Moor Green v VS Rugby, Paget Rangers v Clevedon Town; Racing Warwick v Newport (Gwent): Reddikch Utd v Stamford AFC; Weston-super-Mare v Sutton Coldfield Town: Wisbech Town v Stouthridge. Southern Division: Andover v Baldock Town; Chelmsford City v Newport (GoW): Cirencester Town v Fleet Town. Erith & Behedere v Corby Town; Fisher Athletic London v Ashford Town; Fisher Athletic London v Ashford Town; Follosstone Invitat v 1918 Town v Ste London v Steps Waterlooville; Wilney Town v Ste London v Steps Waterlooville; Wilney Town v Ste London.

MORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE Firse Divisions Glossop North End v Skelmersdale Und: Holker Old Boys v Atherton LR: Klosgrove Arhette v Work-

ington; Leek CSOB v Mossley; Maine Road v Atherton Collierles; Nantwich Town v Clitherce; Ramsbottom Utd v Bootle; Rossendale Utd v Cheadle Town, League Cap semil-finalst Prescot Cobles v Newcastle Town; St Helens Town v Vaushall GM.

Vatorhall GM.

WinstronLEAD ICENT LEAGUE Premier Division: Beckenham Town v
Crockenhill; Cancerbury City v Greenwich
Borough; Cray Wanderers v Lordswood;
Erith Town v Deal Town; Faversham Town
v Karbridge Wells; Hythe Lid v Herne Bay;
Slade Green v Sheppey Utd; Thamesmead
Town v Chatham Town; Whitstable Town
v Ramseate.

V Ramsgate.
VRAMSgate.
UNITED COUNTIES
LEAGUE Presider Division: Bourne v
Buckingham Town; Cogenhoe v Potton;
Desborough v Kempston; Eynesbury v
Boston Town; Ford Sports v Yaxley; Holands v St Neots; Northampton Spercer

COURTE UTA.

SCREWIPX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Division: Bideford v Bristol Manor Farm; Bridgeoter V Bishop Sutton; Caine Town v Bridgeoter Town; Keynsham Town v Backvell Utot Melischam Town v Emore, Tiverton Town v Taumton Town; Westbury Utd v Mangotsfield Utd.

HOETHERS COMMENTED

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND AL-

Sett Town.

RYTERLINK EXPIRESS MIDLAND ALLIAMCE: Barwell v Stratford Town;
Bridgnorth Town v West Midlands Police:
Chasetown v Willesthall Town; Halesowen Harriers v Stapenhill; Kings Nortom Town v Pelsarl Villa, Oldbury Utd v
Boldmere St Michaels; Pershore Town v
Rocester; Shifmal Town v Rushall Olympic;
Stourport Swifts v Sandwell Borough;
Wednesfield v Knypersley Victoria.

JEMPON MESSEX LBAGUE: Torton v
Whitchurch Utd; BAT v Thatcham Town;
Bournemouth v Portsmouth RN;
Christchurch v Lymington & New Milton;
Cowes Sports v Bemerton Hearth; East
Cowes Vics v Downton; Eastleigh v
Winhborne Town; Fareham Town v Moneyffelds; Gosport Borough v Afc Nevbury; Hamble v Brockenhurst.
JEMSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premaler Divisions: Bury Town v Lowestoft
Town; Fakenham Town v Harwich & Parkeston; Felestowe Port & Town v By City;
Halstead Town v Dès Town; Maldon Town
v Gorleston; Sudbury Town v Newimarket Town; Sudbury Wanderers v Ipswich
Wanderers; Warboys v Wrocham; Watton
Utd v Histon; Woodbridge Town v Steat
Varmouth Town.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN
LEAGUE First Division: Billingham
Synthonia v Consett; Circok Town v Seaham Red Star; Easington v Bälingham
Town; Jarrow Roofing v Dunston Feder-

WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE AND POOLS CHECK: ation; Shildon v Newcastle Blue Star: South Shields v Bedlington Terriers; Tow Law Town v Morpeth Town; West Auckland v Marske Utd.

LEAGUE: Deveronvale v Hundly; Forres Mechanics v Brora Rangers; Fort William v Peterhead; Fraserburgh v Losslemouth; Nairn County v Clachnacuddin; Rothes v Eigin Gry; Wick Academy v Keith. SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE Premier
Division: Coleraine v Cliftonville; Gie-Divisions Coleraine v Cirironville; or navon v Ballymena; Linfield v Portadown Newry v Glentoran; Omagh Town v Crusaders, First Divisions Bangor v Durgannon Swifts; Distilleny v Ballyclare Larne v Ards; Limavady Utd v Carrick.

> RUGBY LEAGUE SOLA CUT CHALLENGE CAP POTH ROUND

RUGBY UNION EUROPEIUN SMIELD MINAL TETLEY'S BITTER CUP OUARTER-FINALS

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP ONE ord v Sale (3.0).....

Exeter v Worcester (3.0)

Rugby v Wakefield (3.0)
JEMSON NATIONAL LEAGUE One:
Birmingham/Sollhulf v Reading; Harrogate
v Lydney, I herpool St Heiens v Orley, Manchester v Henley (2.15); Nottingham v Camberley (3.0); Rosslyn Park v Newtoury,
Wharletade v Morley (2.15), The North:
Aspatria v Walsall; Kendal v Preston
Grasshoppers; Luchfeld v Hinckey, Sedgley Park v New Brighton; Sheffield v
Nuneaton; Whirchurch v Sandal, Winnington Park v Stourbridge. Two South: Brachnell v Esher (2.15); Cheltenham v Barking;
Norwich v Met Police; Plymouth v North
Nalsham; Redruth v Bridgwater (3.0);
Isbard v Hawant (2.15); Weston-super-Mare
v Cillton (3.0)
Statales CUP Statis round: Aberavon v

v Clifton (3.0)
Stath round: Aberaron v
Cardiff: Blackwood v Tredegar: Bridgend
v Swansea (5.30): Cross Keys v Tordu:
Llanelli v Llantellieth: Pontypool v Neath; Pontypridd v Bonymaen.
WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE First Di-vision: Llandovery v Newbridge
TENNENT'S VELNET PREMIERSHIP First Divisions Euroughruir v West of Scotland (3.0); Glassow Hawtes v Water-TENNENT'S WEIVET PREMIERSHIP HERS Dividing to Mest of Scotland (3.0); Glasgow Hawks v Watsonians (3.0); Hawnch v Heriots FP (3.0); Jedforest v Currie (3.0), Stirling County v Melrose (3.0), Secand Dividions Aberdeen GSFP v Keiso (3.0); Begar v Musselburgh (3.0); Dundee HSFP v Kilmarnock (3.0); Gala v Kirkzaldy (3.0). The Division: Ayr v Stewarts Mel FP (3.0); Glasgow Southern v Gordonians (3.0); Glangow Southern v Gordonians (3.0); Glangomouth v East Kilbride (3.0); Preston Lodge v Peebles (3.0).

All LEAGUE Pare: Oversion: Ballymena v Garryowen; Blackrock College v Buccaneers; Clontari v Shannon; Cork Constitution v St Marys; Forenure v Galweglars; Young Munster v Lansdowne, Second Divisions Bective Rangers v Dolphin; DLSP v Malonet; Derry v Greystones; Dungannon v Old Belweders; Portadown v Old Crescent; Skerries v Wandersers; Sundan'a Weil v Old Benedere: Portadown v Old Cres-cenc Skertles v Wanderers: Sunday's Well v Old Wesley, UCC v Ballynahinch. CLUB MATCHES: Northampton v Scot-HOCKEY

HOCKEY

BY

HOCKEY

HOCKEY

12.30); Canterbury v Hourslow (2.0); Guldford v East Grinstead (12.30); Old Loughtonans v Brooklands (1.30); Reading v Cannock (2.0); Teddington v Beeston (2.0); Overnisford v Eastcote (2.15); Doncaster v Hull (12.0); Hampstead & Westminster v Harleston Magnes (2.0); Lewes v Oxford Unit (1.30); Loughborough Students v Sheffield (2.0); Oxford Hawks v Bromley (2.0) (at St Edwards School); St Albans v Indian Gymkhana (1.0); Sur-St Albans v Indian Gymkhana (1.0); S biton v Barford Tigers (12.30). SOUTH PREMIER: Anchorians v Old Whitgiftians: Beckenham v Wimbledon; Bournemouth v Old Cranleighars: City of Portsmouth v Blackheath: Fareham v hester. Gore Court v Wo

Chickster: Gore Court v Woking: Herne Bay v Wokingham: Maidenhead v Purley; Richmond v Frigh Wycombe; Winchester v Tunbridge Wells.

DTZ MIDLAND PREMIER: Edgbascon v North Notts; Hampon-in-Arden v Leek; Harborne v North Stafford; Khalsa v Northampton Saints; Otton & Wiest War-wick v Northigham; Shrewsbury v Coven-try & North Warwick.

wick v Northgham; Strewsbury v Coventry & North Warwick.

PREMIER HOLIDAYS EAST PREMIER:
Bedford Xwwn v Cambridge Univ, Bishop's
Stortford v Cambridge Univ, Bishop's
Stortford v Cambridge City; Cookesser v
Blueharts; Crostyx v Clactor; Peterborough
Rown v West Herts.

NORTH PREMIER: Bowdon v Durham
Univ. Chesper v Southport; Norton v Formby; Rotherham v Ben Rhydding; Sheffield
Bankers v Harrogate; Warrington v Neston.

WEST OF EMGLAND & SOUTH WALES
PREMIER: Bith Buccureers v Guinton
Vale; Cheltenham v Swansea. Robinsons
v West Wilts; Whitchurch v Goucester City;
Yeoni & Sherborne v Weston-super-Mare.
BIOMEN'S EIROPEAN INDOOR CLUB
CHARPHONSHIP (9.0-5.15) (at Kelvin
Hall, Glasgow).

WOMEN'S EIR. PREMIER: Ipswich v
Doncaster (12.0), Fyffes Leicester v Sutton Coldfield (12.30); Otton Terraquest v
Hightown (11.0) (at King Edward W
School) Fire Divisions Addridge v Loughborough Students (2.0); Bradford v Sunderstand Asthonoles (12.0); Stradford v Sunderstand Asthonoles (12.0); Stradford v Sunderstand Asthonoles (12.0); Evenethoru v

Alightown (I 10) (at Ring Edward W School) Free Divisions Addridge v Loughborough Students (2.0): Bradford v Sunderland Ashbrooke (12.0): Canterbury v Cheinsford Highway (12.0): Trojans v Minnbedon (1 30). Second Division: Bracknett v Hampton-In-Arden (2.0) (at Easthompstead Park): Ealing v Working (1.30): Old Loughtonians v Sherwoodd (12.30): Poynton v St Albans (12.15). WOMEN'S MIDLAND PREMIER: Bedford v Clinn Terraquest: Belger v Loughborough Students: Crimson Ramblers v North Stalls: Kettering v Luton. North Stalis: Kettering v Luton.

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WORLDA'S SOUTH First Director: City of Portsmouth v Dulwick, Handon v Roser Cowley: Horston v Maddenhead; Reading Milliant Ticks Mill v Greithampton

WOMEN'S WEST PREMIER: Chel-tenham v Portishead Firebrands: Eveter v Taunton Vale; Leominster v Colwali; Red-land v Emmouth; St Austell v Bournemouth, WORKEN'S INTERNATIONALS: Eng-land v Scotland (at Richmond Athletic Ground); England A v Scotland A (12.0) (at Richmond Athletic Ground). Send v Estroburt; St Aussel v Bolgmemours, Woonken's TRYSPORTS THREE COUNTIES First Division: Henley v Franham Common; Milton Keynes v Phoenix-Ranelagh; Newbury v Gity of Oxford Rover Cowley v Wycombe Rye; Sonning v Oxford Hawkis; Windsor v Bracknell; Wokingham v Rearling

(2.0); Old Loughtonians v Teddington (2.0); Reading v Canterbury (2.0), South-gate v Hounslow (2.0). gate v Hourstow (2.0), South-BH. First Division: Bromley v Hull (1.0); Hazart v Stourport (2.0); Isca v Frebrands (2.0).

women's European Indoor Club Championship (9.0-5.0) (at kehin Holl, Glasgow) BRITISH AEROSPACE UNDER-18 WOREN'S CHAMPIONSHIP Finals (9.30-5.30) (at Million Keynes Stadium).

OTHER SPORTS BORDING World Boxing Union light-weight title: C Durve (Liverpool, hold-er) v P Holliday (SA) (at York Holl, Bethnol Green). Commonwealth mid-dleweight title: P Jones (Sheffield) v J Matthews (London) (at Oldham). TENNUS: Guardan Direct Cup (at Bat-tersea Park, London).

INOMER'S BIDLAND BANK WELSH LEAGUE: Colvyn Bay v Newtown; Penarth v UMC; Swanssa v Cwmtawe; Cardiff Adi-

MASKETBALL

DAIRYLEA DURNKERS 1999 ALL STAR GAME (at Telewest Arena, Newcastle)

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP OUALIFIER

Israel v England (8.50) (at Tel Aviv)

ICE HOCKEY

SEKONDA SUPERLÉAGUE: Nottingham Panthers v Ayr Scottish Eagles (7.0): Sheffield Steelers v Newcastle Riverkings

TOMORROW

M CAICLING PREMIERSHIP Crystal Palace v Barnsley (1.0). PRESTOR LEAGUE ATTOCK v Rangers (6.05)

FAI HARP LAGER National League Pressier Division: Derry City v Bray Wan-derers (3.15): UCD v Sigo Rovers (3.15). RUGBY LEAGUE SILK CUT CHALLERS CUP

Huddersfield v Salford (3 0)...
Hull K R v London (3.0)...
Wakefield v Bradford (3.0)...
Wakefield v Bradford (3.0)...
Whitehaven v Oldham (3.0)...
Witehaven v Oldham (3.0)...
Widnes v Leigh (3.15)...
NORTHERN FORD Premiership:
Rochdale v Doncaster (12 0)

RUGBY UNION 2 30 unless stated TETLEY'S BITTER CUP CUARTER-FINALS

Newcastle v Saracens (2.0) Wasps v London Irish (3.0)...... ALLIED DURBAR Promiership Two: Slackheath v Rotherham (3 O), Leeds v No-terico. SWALEC CUP Sixth round: Caerphilly v Sbbw Vale.

POCKET SHA CUP Shith round: Cannock v Lewer

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Chester Jets v Newcastle Eagles (7 30). ICE HOCKEY

SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE: Newcastle Riverkings v Ayr Scottish Eagles (6.30): Cardiff Derils v Manchester Storm (6.30): Bracknell Bees v Notringham Panthers (6.0): London Knights v Sheffield Steel-ers (6.0):

OTHER SPORTS TENNES: Guardian Direct Cup (of Bot-terseo Park, London)

TRANSFERS

FULL TRANSFERS Free transfers or undisclosed fees unless stated

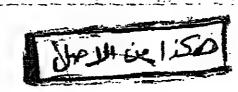
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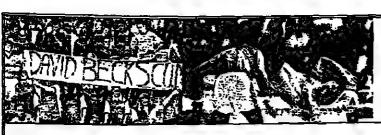
Craig Arasstrang (defender) Notten Forest to Huddersheld (£750,000): Dani Rodrigues (forward) Faiense (tt) to Southampron (£170,000): Stewe Howard (forward) Hartlepool to Northampron (£120,000): Paul Ewans (midfielder) Shrewsbury to Brenford (£110,000); Stewen Begrack (modicider) Rangers to Dundee (£25,000): David Hiller (midfielder) Portsmouth to Bristo Rovers (£15,000): Neil Howarth (defender) Mocchesfield to Cheltenham (£7,000): Gashin Wand (goalkeeper) Bolton Wanderers to Stoke City

LOANS/TRIALS

LOANS/TRIALS

Bradley Allen (forward) Charlton Athletic to Cocheserer. Kevin Micholls (midfielder)
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Paul Shepherd (defender) Leeds Uid to
Trammere. Bright Wiright (goalkeeper)
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(Arg) to Nottingham Forest (trial); Rodrigo Graits (midfielder) Adetto Diventus (Br)
to Middiesbrough (trial); Some Barbe (midfielder) RWD Molenbeck (Bel) to Wimbledon (trial); Anthony Fenton (defender)
Manchester City to Portsmouth (trial);
Mail Heaney (forward) Manchester City to
Bristol City (trial); Matthew Wicks (defender) Crewe to Peterborough (trial).





THE SWEEPER

BY CLIVE WHITE AND NICK HARRIS



Never an easy ride for Konjic

would have had the good sense not to tell Coventry's new Bosnian international, Muhamed Konjic, that football is more important than life and death, Yet, had it not been for football, some of

men might never have survived their war-torn country. After what Konjic has been through, a relegation struggle with the Sky Blues - which would become that much more likely with defeat in the derby at Villa Park today - would be just a minor

Konjic's own family and country-

hiccup in his career. The big central defender may have joined Coventry for 22m from Monaco but a transfer earlier in his career, from FC Sarajevo to NK Zagreb, was paid in food parcels. Indeed his salary while in Croatia continued to be paid in the same kind, with the food sent home to Bosnia. Konjic explained: "A kilo of coffee was £500 and it was £200 for a few loaves of bread. Money was useless. We needed food."

And if his transfer from Monte Carlo to Highfield Road may have appeared anything but smooth because of hold-ups with the DoE it was plain sailing compared to the tortuous journey he made from Bosnia to Croatia. The trip had to be undertaken by car and because of road-blocks the driver chose mountain roads and trails. All went well during the two days it took until he fell asleep at the wheel, hit a bus and plunged 60ft down a ravine.

"I broke the bones in both my arms on the dashboard but I had to play in a match two weeks later because my family needed food," Konjic said. "I was crying every time I made a tackle or jumped for finals day. a header. The other players must have wondered what was wrong with me because I didn't tell them about my injuries."

Konjic's career in England has not had the best of starts. He did well in his debut, against Tottengame, against Newcastle United, most influential people - Geoff he was given another rough ride. Thompson, David Davies, Howard this time by Alan Shearer, and was dropped for last week's match Coventry were looking for an Nigel Pearson and Nigel Spackheroic figure to succeed Dion mun. Dublin - whom they will face today

ture - they could not have done nothing has he inherited the former favourite's No 9 shirt.

IT MUST have been with some inevitability that natives of Sheffield accepted the Blades' defeat in the FA Cup rematch with Arsenal in midweek. The Steel City has been coming off the worse in meetings with the Gunners for some time now. In 1993, Wednesday lost two Wembley finals against them and earlier

SONG SHEET Sunderland fans' devotion to the pants of a star 66 Niall Quinn's disco pants are the best. They go up from his arse to his thest, y are better than dam and the Ants', NIall Quinn's disco pants. 99

this season the Owls were ultimately losers again in a league game against the same opposition Frank Jefferis. when the dismissal of Paolo Di Canio led to their striker leaving the

Now Arsenal's victory over United has left Wednesday, who were due to visit Highbury on 6 March, kicking their heels on quarter-

PERHAPS SHEFFIELD intends to get its own back by moving the game's headquarters away from the capital. As the Sweeper revealed recently, ham Hotspur, but in his second many of the Football Association's Wilkinson and Dave Richards - are against Manchester United. But if FA's recently appointed coaches,

In fact, the Sheffield "Mafia"

for the first time since his depar- had intended that the unveiling of their new part-time, temporary better than choose Konjic, Not for England coach, Kevin Keegan, would be at Hillsborough, but it had to be called off because the deal had not been finalised. So the announcement instead was made the following day in London. The reason given for the Sheffield location was that it was halfway between Keegan's home in the north-east and his job at Fulham never mind that he probably normally fires from one to the other.

> JUDGING BY Everton's disappointing follow-up last weekend to their five-goal mauling of Middlesbrough, it is by no

means guaranteed that they will now have the dishonour of finishing the season with fewer goals at home than any team ever in the top flight. With just three goals at Goodison all season they were strongly fancied, prior to the Middlesbrough goal rush, to overbaul Woolwich Arsenal's record of 11 home goals in the 1912-13 season. They still need four from the six remaining home games to avoid a share of the record but the discovery of Francis Jeffers has given them renewed hope of doing so.

It might be a bit much though, to expect the youngster to score all four himself and thereby equal the output of another Everton player in that 1912-13 season, whose name, would you believe It, was

FILMING IN Sheffield is all the rage since The Full Monty, but it did not go down too well recently with one land owner when the city's two Brazilian footballers, Emerson Thome, of Wednesday, and Marcelo, of United, demonstrated their skills on his property without permission. The couple were just going through their repertoire, for the benefit of BSkyB's cameras, when the land owner set his dogs on them. The Cocacabana was never like this. "There was no arguing with him," said the pair's agent. "I've never seen them move so fast. If you think all Sheffield men, as are two of the they're quick on a Saturday, you should have seen them then."

> Well, as they say, when you play the Brazilians you have to dog them all over the field.

AS YOU WERE



pean glory, a mere glance at the 1968 European Cup-winning side reminds us what an upstanding, talented bunch of young men the club had on its does? Okay, okay, so Bobby books back then. Just look at Sir never had any hair, but you get

Girl, wearing a sarong on his holidays and dyeing his hair blond, as young David Beckham

ving round in a flashy motor? And can you imagine George Best (behind, Sir Bobby) ever having a fit of petulance or acting in any way that might not be becoming for an icon?

THE PRICE IS RIGHT

he. We're off into Europe this week so let's dive in for a European portfolio. Manchester Lazio, the best club on the planet. United could not have wished for are tub-thumping certainties. a better time to meet out-of-form. injury-plagued Internazionale while Ukranian giants Dynamo Kiev can oust beleaguered holders

THE SWEEPER gets his advice for the European Cup, while samies from Ready the Uefa Cup surely rests between To Eqt and loves Red Italian big boys Parma and French LIBERO WAGERS Cofe. No euro sceptic league leaders Marseilles. There's only one possible winner of the Cup Winner's Cup and it's not Chelsea. Meanwhile, this week-end, let's put Sheffield Wednesday to bury Boro in trebles with three likely draws, while Florentina may be Real Madrid. They're the ante-post held to a draw on C4 by Salernitana.

(Four £2 trebles with Ladbrokes); Everton to draw with Wimbledon (9-4); Sheff Wed to beat Middlesbrough (4-6); Newcastle to draw with Arsenal 19-4): Leicester to draw with Leeds (9-4). SUNDAY C4 ITALIAN JOB Salernitana v Horentina Draw (£2, 2-1, generally).

Parma (£3, 100-30, Coral). **EUROPEAN CUP PORTFOLIO** Dynamo Kiev (£2, 8-1, generally); Man Utd (£2, 9-2, Coral & William Hill). CUP WINNERS' CUP PORTFOLIO Lazio (£4, 6-4, Tote). ORIGINAL BANK: £100.

................... CURRENT KITTY: £163.95! Marseilles (£2, 7-1, generally); TODAY'S BETS: £25.07 (inc. tax).

MASCOT ON THE MAT

Name: Rockin' Robin. Club: Wrexham. Appearance: A big, redbreasted bird with a yellow face and brown boots. Crime sheet: A troublemaker from the moment be was hatched, this rampant robin has left damage and destruction wherever he's gone. The Welsh wildman tif

that's not tautological) has set off a fire extinguisher before a game, ridden onto the pitch on a bike and tried to run over a linesman (for which he was sent off by the club's managing director) and dug huge divots from the ground with a pitchfork. Among his other acts of skulduggery are poking fun at the linesmen - he waves his own flag when the ball goes

the Red Breast) will tame this rescal. In mitigation, Your Honour: Since the announcement of his marriage, Rockin' has promised to become a reformed bird.

out of play - and running onto the pitch waving a

pole (another early bath offence). It is to be hoped

that marriage to his girifriend Tina Turfit (Simply

Other information: He may seem a nasty piece of work, but Rockin' Robin is just a big-hearted, bigbreasted tweetie-pie who wants to be loved by an ageing rock star.

MY TEAM



JOHN MCCRIRICK **NEWCASTLE UNITED**

Channel 4 racing's betting ring guru "I was born in Surrey, but there v. eren't many good teams there. I've supported Newcastle all my miserable life because my uncle was from there. It was half a crown to watch in the 50s. The average wage was £10 a week. It was a great era: Simpson, Harvey, Crowe. I once interviewed Jackie Milburn, a total hero, the epitome of his age. I can't believe Newcastle will win the title in my lifetime. I'm ashamed of my support. I'm a fair weather fan. I haven't got a rattle. but I've visited the Newcastle shop and I've got some hats. I think Shearer's lost half a yard of pace. He's still the best striker in the country, but needs support. Rund Gullitt is terrific! He did it for Chelsea and I believe he'll do it for us." Interview by Daniel Booth

IN T'NET

Found on the Web: Blind, Stupid and Desperate THIS UNOFFICIAL Watford website is chock-ablock with amusing football trivia, including the superbly detailed "If I had the wings of a sparrow" page which gives the traditional song a multi-national flavour by reproducing it in a bost of languages including Japanese, Spanish, Italian, Finnish, Norwegian and West Riding. Other pages on the site include "The Hall of Arse", which is an amusing look at what contributors think about the ineptitude of players who once graced the Vicarage Road turf, and "Famous defeats", which recounts, amongst other things, how The Hornets lost 3-1 to Kaiserslauten in the Uefa Cup first round, first leg in 1983.

BOUGHT

even the weedlest fan into a fearsome Bruce Lee.

THEY'RE NOT ALL DENNIS BERGKAMP

Unsung foreign legionnaires No 28 IVO DEN BIEMAN: The 32-year old Dutch utility player started his career in his home country with an amateur side. SV Leones. Seeking a taste of the high life, he moved to Montrose in 1990, to Dundee in 1992 and on to Dunfermline in 1993, where he remained until last October, when he moved to Falkirk. Ivo is not only flexible (ranging from solid defender to probing midfielder) but is also a keen scuba diver who's been known to hang out at Eric Clapton concerts. He's talented, musical and cerebral too - with a marketing and business degree that might come in handy when he finishes playing. After 15 games with Falkirk, Ivo has s established a reputation as a man who can "whip good crosses into the box." He has yet to score for his latest club, but rather unfortunately he did score against them last week, netting an own (winning) goal in the 2-1 defeat to Hibernian.

http://www.display.co.uk/watford/main.html SEEN BUT NOT

THE CHANCES are that Oxford will get pasted this evening by Sunderland in the first ever pay-per-view football match on national television. For those Oxford fans who'd like to make themselves look tougher so that they won't be taunted by the northeasterners, what better thing to do than spend 539.99 on an OUFC black towelling bath robe (with white belt? This delightful, must-have item will turn

Hapless victim of terrace taunters

WHEN FOOTBALL fans are misfortunes. And there is alyoung boys they regard their ways one player he can't stand. favourites with an almost supernatural awe. On Saturday afternoons these spiritual be- name was Eddie Baily. In his ings assume a temporal form prime, he had played for Spurs before ascending again to their and England and after a short Olympian homes. As the fan becomes an adult he acquires bought by Nottingham Forest. a job, a wife and children, as well as assuming grown-up responsibilities. Yet his regard for footballers remains exactly the same. My wife never ceases to marvel at the air of expectation that greeted the news that Martin O'Neill had

There is a reverse side to this. Adding spice to every other Forester passed to him, most exhibitarating sight in foot-crowd is the mozner. He one of us would snap: "He's ball it was this ability which proseems to revel in his team's given it to Grandpa!"

My friends and I soon discovered our anti-hero. His

stay at Port Vale, he had been

To the wider football world, Baily was known as "The Cheeky Chappie." To us, he was "Grandpa". Those con artists of the press tried to convince us that Baily was 30-ish. With his balding head, an incipient paunch and an apparentered the building before speaking at our local league's more than a steady jog, he had anniversary dinner. to be at least 60. We loathed Eddie Baily. Every time an-

FAN'S EYE VIEW

NOTTINGHAM FOREST

BY STEPHEN SHAW

At the other extreme of our passion, our hero was the 5ft 5in fleet-footed flyer from Lossimouth, Stewart Imlach. The sight of him racing down the touchline, picking up the ball without breaking stride and surging past opponents with that blistering pace, was the pelled Imlach into the Scotland

ten" by our hero, in discovering that Imlach credited Eddie Baily with his sudden success.

main in our favoured spot in relocated to the Bridgford End. Here, we met the real McCoy; a genuine, full-grown. mega-moaner. On account of his swarthy, weather-beaten complexion, his ankle-length oilskins and sailor's cap, we nicknamed him "The Captain".

The Captain grumbled at everything but the particular victim of his bile was the young striker, Geoff Vowden. What Vowden had done to upset him we knew not, but the young Channel Islander had only to touch the ball to elicit a melody Forest team.

team Imagine our shock, then, of prehistoric utterances, when reading an article "writOnce in work I invested in Once in work I invested in a season ticket in the Main Stand, Any idea I might have

that my seat would free me When we grew too tall to re- from the mosners was soon destroyed. Once, I overheard a the front row by the tunnel, we conversation as to whether or not John McGovern, who had recently lifted the European Cup for the second time, was good enough for Eastwood Town, but my award for the alltime-daft-comment has to go to: "Well, of course, I never did rate John Robertson!"

The truth is that .the mosner's chief inspiration is ignorance. For my part, I may have grumbled about him 40 years ago, but how I wish I could watch a Grandpa Bally trotting out with the present

Killie in revival mode

mentum," admitted the striker

scorer this season with six

BY JOHN NISBET

ADRY spell in front of goal has left Kilmarnock thirsting for the success that put the provincial side among the Scottish Premier League contenders before the winter break. A revival of Paul Wright, Kilmarnock's top their scoring prowess tomorrow, when they face Rangers, will certainly make them the

with a game in hand.

goals, despite missing large chunks of the season through toast of east Glasgow as well as injury. "Injuries have played a help to sate their longing for a part. I have had a groin prob-Uefa Cup qualifying place. iem, while Jérome Vareille broke his arm in December and Just one goal from three league games since returning he was a vital player for us. from the hiatus has seen Kilmarnock's ambition of winning their first title since 1965 fade away. Bobby Williamson's side

"The title may be beyond us now, but we want to claw back three points," he said Wright, who has scored against went into the shutdown four Rangers on their last two visits points behind Rangers, but to Rugby Park "Our aim is have taken only one point from reaching the Uefa Cup at the three games since and now lie very least." Rangers, despite recent inin third place, 15 points addift

"The shutdown hit our mo- er Arthur Numan out for the transfer from Croatia Zagreb.

season and Colin Hendry for the next month, look near-certainties to clinch their 48th title

if they overcome Kilmarnock. The coach, Dick Advocaat, is unperturbed by second-placed Celtic's surge of form since returning form the break at the end of January. There is no reason for nerves," he said. "There is still a gap of 10 points between us and Celtic. The most important thing is that we keep on winning. The

pressure is on the other side." The "other side" include Marko Viduka for the first time today when the champions face Dundee United at Parkhead The Australian striker has scored twice in successive games for Celtic's Under-21 side and is close to full fitness juries which have put defend- again after his protracted 23m

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Premiership: Faced with his greatest football challenge, Ron Atkinson turned to old favourite John Harkes

Forest look to their cyberman

ONE WEEK John Harkes was By PHIL SHAW soaking up the sun in Hawaii. The next he was feeling the heat of a relegation struggle in an East Midlands winter. Just another twist in a story which, as well as providing rich material for the first autobiography by an American soccer player, may well be football's first cyberspace

Harkes was on the Pacific island last month, taking a vacation after leading Washington DC United to an historic triumph over the Brazilians of Vasco da Gama in the Inter-American Cup, when he receined an intriguing e-mail from friend. It informed him that his former manager at Sheffield Wednesday, Ron Atkinson, was setting up his Red Adair operation at Nottingham Forest, and suggested light-heartedly that the 31-year-old midfielder might

Forty-eight hours after returning to Washington, Harkes learned that Forest actually did want him on loan, It was Friday and Big Ron needed him there by Monday, One hastily arranged flight later, he was the most-capped player in the Premiership. By the end of the next week, having not kicked a ball competitively for . nearly two months, be was "thrown in at the deep end" as emergency right-back at Ever-

Forest duly gained their fir win in 20 games, only for three ensuing defeats, including an 8-1 mauling by Manchester United, to leave them adrift at the bottom of the Premiership. Relegation looks a formality unless today's visit to a resurgent Chariton Athletic delivers the first in a string of victories, but experience has taught Harkes to expect the unexpected.

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HARRY HARRY THE PLANE

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It could hardly be otherwise for the son of Scottish migrants to New Jersey, after he grew up observing Pele at close quarters as a ball-boy for the New York Cosmos, From the University of Virginia be

graduated to the school of hard knocks that is the English game. Then, after becoming the first American to play (and score) in a major Wembley final with Wednesday, he served Derby and West Ham before going home to the new Major League Soccer.

As a veteran of 90 internationals, and arguably the most accomplished player the United States has ever produced, Harkes had reason to look forward to his third World Cup finals last summer. Yet in the spring, the coach, Steve Sampson, suddenly and controversially cut him from the

"It was a disgrace the way he did it," Harkes recalled. "We sat down and he said: 'I'm not sure about taking you'. I said:

vided the ironic title of his forthcoming book, Captain For Life and Other Temporary Assignments, the first part being an epithet which Sampson lavished on him in 1996. His latest assignment could

if he finishes the season strongly, or Forest defy gravity. Either way, he will be back former Italy goalkeeper Walter

The Boston franchise have taken over his contract from DC United, whom Harkes led to the first two MLS titles and defeat by Chicago Fire in the third final. "The league's doing well," he said, "Crowds average around 19,000 and the in-

The Bosman ruling means the clubs have no power. My team-mates will say: 'Hold on a minute, Harksey, you're full of crap'

Where did this come from? I just captained your side in Belgium'. His final decision came out via the media. He didn't handle it like a man."

Sampson alleged indiscipline off the pitch and positional inflexibility on it. "He tried to make up any story he could," Harkes said, "but the real reason was his insecurity as a coach. He changed six players before the finals, which is why we did so miserably. He destroyed the chemistry that got us to France.

"I took no satisfaction from the fact that we lost all three matches. I watched at home, in pain. Putting it in perspective, I know worse things happen to people, but the way the media questioned me and my character was annoying. It was a power trip for Steve Sampson. He focused all the hype on me." Harkes' website received

500 hits a day as the argu-

vestors have committed themselves to a further five

"At DC the atmosphere was like a party at every game. And the technique of the players is good. They just aren't steeped in a soccer culture like kids bere, where they develop through the system of schools, youth and reserve teams. Soccer's now the biggest participation sport. We have to start academies like the Premiership clubs and work on the 10vear-olds."

MLS is still waiting for its first indigenous star, its Michael Jordan. Eddie Pope, a Sol Campbell clone from North Carolina, has a World Harkes fears he missed a chance to learn how to read the game better by opting for the "comfort zone" of DC United rather than Ajax or one of two English clubs who covet-

Harkes, with Alexi Lalas

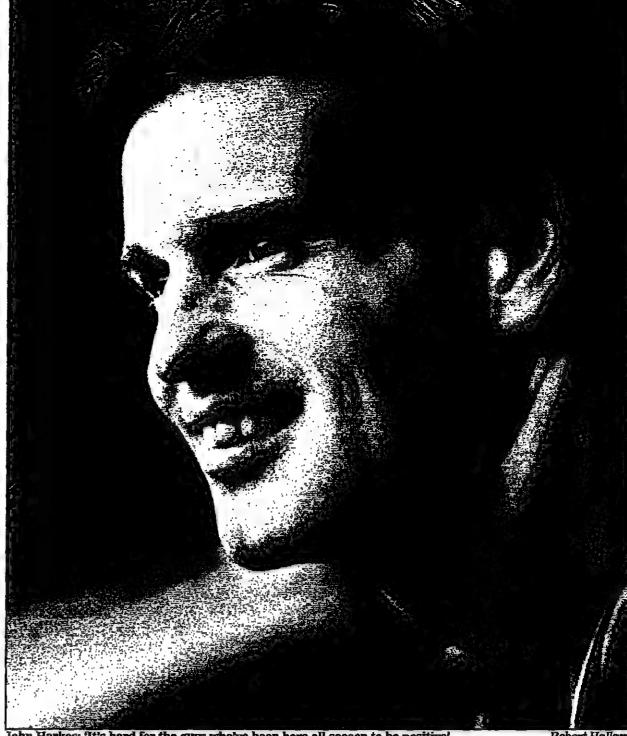
ments raged, almost all back-ing him. The episode also pro-mains the best-known face of MLS and co-hosts a weekly soccer show on television. "I can go to cities around the US and be recognised on the street. That's partly a result of USA 94, but also because the league gets exposure on two yet become more permanent major networks, ESPN and ABC. It's like any product: you need to spend the money, invest in it early on, even if in MLS this summer, with a you're going to have losses. In new team, New England Revolution, under a new coach, the money back,"

Warming to his theme, Harkes talked about buying Forest and restoring past glories. While his tongue was firmly in his cheek, his assessment of how English football has changed since he first arrived nine years ago reveals surprisingly traditional views. Not that he is against the influx of foreigners, which he believes has led to more teams trusting in skill and possession rather than speed

The downside? "The money in the game is ruining it. The high payments to players mean there's no loyalty to clubs any more. The Bosman ruling means the clubs have no power My team-mates will say: 'Hold on a minute, Hark-sey, you're full of crap', but I'm not blaming them. If someone's getting £30,000 a week and the club increase it to £40,000, they're not going to say 'no'. It just means it's hard to get stability within a team like we had at Wednes-

Forest's plight demanded fresh impetus rather than stability; hence the arrival of Harkes, Cariton Palmer and Atkinson. "Ron's still bubbly and lively, still enjoying his fivea-sides. But he has come into Cup behind him at 25, but a situation where his back's against the wall. It would be difficult for any manager.

"It's hard for the guys who've been here all season to now. be positive. They've got used struggling. After Everton the feeling was: We can do



John Harkes: 'It's hard for the guys who've been here all season to be positive'

play United the next week, who was flying at Liverpool with all their quality. We couldn't build on the win. We felt embarrassed by the way we ducked our heads that day, John once. I was in awe of him. but anything's possible, even He's a nice man as well as a

Today's six-pointer may see Harkes in direct opposition to the division's second most- such wisdom is shared by proposals. capped man, John Barnes,

and on the way to 79 appearances for England when he last faced him. "I had tea with top-class player. You don't lose that quality on the ball."

Reassuringly for Harkes, Sampson's successor, Bruce

Arena. They worked together way for the fans to get in at Virginia and DC United, so he may yet be recalled to the national set-up. Should the in attitudes between the US coach want to get in touch. he is on-line most nights, answering messages that vary from requests for tips about hit the net in the critical improving skills to marriage

"I enjoy it because it's a species is more deadly.

touch with the players," said Harkes, highlighting a chasm American and the British footballer. Maybe some time on the Net would help Forest weeks ahead. It is said, after all, that the e-mail of the

Oxford show pleasure at being put in the spotlight

stage for football's latest televisual innovation when Oxford United entertain the leaders, Sunderland, at the Manor

Ground tonight. To cater for Sky Sports's pay-per-view audience, the match will kick off at 6.0pm. The Oxford manager, Malcolm Shotton, predicts that the experiment will, inevitably, become a regular feature around the country - and could help smaller clubs like his own.

"I think it will come into the sizme widely," Shotton said. "From Sunderland's point of view it's a great move. We have only been able to give them around 2,000 tickets and they have been getting over 40,000 fans for their home games, so it's a way for them to see the match.

It might not happen at the bigger clubs, who can fit 30,000 people in and give the away fans a lot of tickets, but it is certainly small ground like ours."

NATIONWIDE PREVIEW

By ROB PARRISH

Todd, after a run of 15 games unheaten which has seen his side climb into second place, is confident his players will not suffer from over-confidence when the bottom club Crewe visit the Reebok Stadium this afternoon.

"People will look at the match and say that it will be a formality for us, but I am sure there will not be any complacency from my players," Todd said. "We will have to be mentally tuned in and we cannot afford to take Crewe lightly. All we can do is concentrate on applying ourselves to the situation in hand and hopefully we will be able to get a result on the day to keep us in the promotion chase."

His Crewe counterpart, Dario Gradi, insists that the trip

much less salubrious places, and I would much rather be going to the Reebok Stadium."

Bradford City's promotion challenge has stuttered, with just one win in the last five games, but their manager Paul Jewell views the statistics differently ahead of today's game against West Bromwich at Vallev Parade. "We haven't been way I look at it," he said. "People outside of the club try and talk negative, but there are 20 thoughts of any disaster here."

George Burley is under no ilhusions about Inswich's trip to struggling Bristol City. The Town manager reckons the Robins are a better side than their second-bottom league position suggests.

than their results are showing at the moment," Burley said. "They conceded a goal five

had actually been broken." He

explained that no other clubs

teams, not just in terms of

Scudamore also revealed

that the Football League had

"put as much pressure as pos-

from the Saturday afternoon.

conceded a penalty in the closing minutes against Sunderland. They are fighting for their lives to avoid relegation and we know that it is going to be a very tough game.

The Birmingham City manager, Trevor Francis, admits he is not relishing his side's trip to fellow play-off hopefuls Grimsby, but he is pleased that the shortest month is now coming beaten in three games is the to an end. "Many people felt they would fade away but they haven't and they could go the distance this season," he said. "On paper we always knew that February was going to be a tough month. We took a point against Palace, lost to Stockport and then got another point against Bolton and now we have another tough away game."

The veteran goalkeeper "They are playing better Alan Knight returns to the Portsmouth side in the relegation battle against Port Vale at Fratton Park, after Aaron Flahavan was ruled out of the rest

SOMETIMES IT'S EASIER TO TALK TO SOMEONE YOU DON'T LIKE.



When you have a problem, it's the most natural thing in the world to want to talk it through with someone.

Sometimes, though, this creates another problem: who's the best person

An obvious choice would be a close friend. But let's face it, we don't always thoose our friends for their amazing powers of tact, diplomacy and discretion. Tell one person, and you may

You may be lucky enough to be able to talk to someone in your family. Then number of people who find talking to your nearest and dearest agonisingly

A girlfriend or boyfriend? If you can, great. But sometimes we don't want to expose our weaknesses to those who

the very problem you want to discuss. That's where The Samaricans can be

useful, We're more discreet than your best mate, we'll listen as carefully as your girlfriend or boyfriend, and we're as sympathetic as your family. We're also non-judgemental, unshockable, and extremely experienced.

Our national number is 0345 90 90 90, and you can e-mail us on jo@samaritans.org or visit out homepage at www.samaritans.org. We're available 24 hours a day, every day of the year, .

And you don't have to be climbing up the walls before you call us - any kind of problem, big or small, is a good enough reason to pick up the phone. Call now. You'll find we're remarkably easy to talk to.

The Samaritans

minutes into injury time could act as a great incentive an option when you have a against West Bromwich last to his struggling side. "I re-The Bolton manager, Colin member when we used to go to League cautious over replays

vealed it would have given cuch lengthier consideration to Se prospect of replaying a controversial fixture such as Arsenal's FA Cup tie against Sheffield United than the Football Association did. THE PERSON NAMED IN

It may still have come up with the same decision to sametion a rematch if the game had been a Worthington Cup lie, but there would be little prospect of the same move applying to Nationwide League games.

The controversy at Highbury earlier this month was caused when Arsenal failed to return possession to United and instead scored through Marc Overmars, after the visors had kicked the ball out to Now their player, Lee Morris.

to receive treatment. The FA's interim executive

THE FOOTBALL League has re- director, David Davies, con- really ever see a situation sulted with a legal expert. Nic where we would replay a Coward, and Challenge Cup committee members before accepting Arsenal's offer, given within 90 minutes of the final whistle, to replay the tie.

The Football League chief executive, Richard Scudamore, did not directly join in with criticism which has previously been expressed in some quarters that the FA acted hastily. However, he has said: "The FA were within their rights to do what they did because it was their competition.

"But I would like to think that, if it had been a one-legged Worthington Cup tie, we would have sat down and taken 24 hours before coming up with the decision that was right in the circumstances." Scudamore added: "I can't

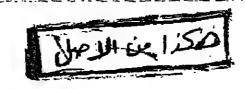
sible" on the FA to switch the kick-off of England's Euro 2000 qualifier against Poland on 27 March from 3pm. It was concerned its clubs would lose out financially from matches clashing with an international screened live, and all but a dozen Nationwide League fixtures have now been switched.

both nides.

"We understand and accept the reasons, but that doesn't League game when no rules mean we don't find it any more palatable," Scudamore said. The reasons for not moving the are affected by the result of a timing of the game were that Glenn Hoddle, the former Eng-land coach, believed his players' cup tie, but League games inevitably have an effect on other preparations in terms of rest and diet would be disrupted by points but also goals scored by an earlier kick-off, while police objected to a later start.

Meanwhile, Scudamore revealed that next season's Worthington Cup final, as well as the play-off finals, would probably be moved to the new Weish national stadium in Cardiff if reconstruction work rules out Wembley.

This season's Worthington Cup final will be refereed by a Nationwide League official: Terry Heilbron, from County



Premiership: Manchester United's Caribbean craftsman is proving that even his huge fee was money well spent

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The revelation of Dwight Yorke

By Adam Szreter

WHEN ALEX Ferguson agreed to pay Aston Villa £12.6m for the services of Dwight Yorke at the start of this season, the Manchester United manager's judgement was called into question not for the first time in his career. Probably not for the last time, Ferguson has proved his critics completely

For several seasons Yorke was regarded as a fine player - unorthodox, clever and with a good record as a goalscorer. But £12.6m? Villa fans who have since expressed their resentment at his departure were probably quietly confident it represented good business for them at the time; United fans were wondering if Fergie was becoming desperate. But surely not even Ferguson could have forecast the impact Yorke has had at Old Trafford. He is the leading scorer in the Premiership, was the leading scorer in their Champions' League campaign and, furthermore, his partnership with the one time misfit Andy Cole - founded on Yorke's footballing brain. Cole's lightning reflexes and a close personal friendship - has provided United with not just

'Sometimes the occasion will hit you full in the face when you walk out for a match'

one new player but two and kick-started Cole's stuttering international career

Yorke has been a revelation, the permanently upturned collar by no means the only line of comparison to be drawn with the seemingly incomparable Eric Cantona, Like Cantona, Yorke took unhesitatingly to the biggest stage in English club football and, like Cantona, he can usually be relied upon to play the right ball at the right time. In fact, just about the only blot on his copybook so far was a missed penalty against Arsenal 10 days ago, but even King

Unlike Cantona, Yorke smiles a lot but he seems to share the same icy coolness that set the Frenchman apart. "I'm not a nervous type of guy," he explained recently at the end of a long afternoon of promotional work at a luxury hotel in the Cheshire stockbroker belt where Yorke, a happy bachelor, has fust moved in to a new home. He will have the Fergusons and the Beckhams as near neighbours.

"Sometimes the occasion will hit you full in the face when you walk out for a match. but I won't be shaking in my boots. It's a game of football and that's why we're here, I can switch off easily. I don't know



don't understand these things. I suppose coming from the Caribbean and having a laidback attitude makes me more relaxed, not worrying about the size of my price tag or any-

Yorke was born into a family of nine children, all brought up in a two-bedroom hungalow in Tobago. "We were very poor - not a lot to look forward to," he said. "Things weren't coming easy at all, I certainly wanted that to change and football was very much what I wanted. There were actually far more talented people than myself in Trinidad and Tobago, but I had

a bit more desire. "Seeing people straying by the wayside made me want to be someone. There were so few opportunities back home that I might have ended up just hanging out, taking in the way of life, getting involved in drugs or whatever, But I chose

what stress or pressure is, I not to because I wanted to be somebody else."

The rest of his family still live plays cricket for Trinidad and Tobago and the others are all keen sportsmen - but even a beautiful place. There's no his fellow countrymen he has no intention of turning his back on them, despite the fact that his nationality means he will probably never play interna-, tional football at the very highest level.

"When people talk about foreign players here my name is never mentioned," he said. "Maybe it's because I came here when I was 17 with nothing and no one knew who I was. just this guy from Trinidad and Tobago. The other foreign players here have usually got some kind of pedigree. But I'm very

proud of where I come from. "It's only now that I really appreciate my country. After liv- money is mine.

ing here for 10 years, when I go back I sit there looking at the sunset and glitter on the beach on the island - one brother and think Wow, I had this for 17 years but I've never seen it the way I'm seeing it now'. It is yond the imagination of most of all year round, the crime rate is not as high as some of the other Caribbean countries and the people are very friendly and

> Whether they are quite as Yorke, rather than envious when he returns this summer for the first time since his lucrative transfer to United, remains to be seen. "It probably will be difficult because my family gets it all the time." he said. "People there are not really aware of how football operates here - some of them will look at the £12 6m, which is the equivalent of 126 million Trinidad dollars, and think that

"The ones who are more into sport would know, but despite that people will certainly look at me as a wealthy young man coming back to the Caribbean, especially being at the biggest club now for United. It will put me on a certain level. But that won't hamner me. It's where I was brought up and where I'll al- I'm not as instinctive as someways go back to. They're my one like Alan Shearer" roots. I've got some great friendly and warm towards friends there and I'm still very proud and happy to be in their company when I go back. It might be a different ball game this summer but that's the

> last thing on my mind at the moment. What is on his mind is Manchester United As a player, Yorke has undoubtedly progressed since moving there and he is happy to acknowledge Ferguson's role in that. "He just wanted me to be myself. He told

ing for, you're happy, enjoy yourself. If you can't play here you can't play anywhere else'. I think I'm always improving and if I didn't I'd probably pack the game in, but I'm coming to the pinnacle of my career now. ing the play and running at defenders but my finishing is still not as good as I'd like it to be.

As for his part in Cole's revival, Yorke said: "When you meet someone you get to know certain things. Andy had a lot of injuries and having to deal with everything wasn't easy for him. People gave him stick, but if you look at his goalscoring record there aren't many hetter. He's shown a lot of character to overcome all that and prove people wrong every day."

Away from football, Yorke admits to having few friends outside the game but is "a keen

good and it's not affecting my certain amount of respect for game. Apart from that, winter for me is putting on the fire and sitting there watching sport on telly. I also like a good afternoon sleep but since I've been at at this level you can't afford to United I haven't had much

something happening."
For Yorke and the rest of the United side, there's certainly something happening at Old Trafford over the next few days. First, the visit of Southampton this afternoon and the quest for another three points in their bid to regain the Premiership title: then, on Wednesday night, the biggest game in Yorke's life: the European Cup quarter-final first leg against Internazionale.

How will be approach it? In Europe it's all mind work and tactics, people looking at the game differently and there's a key to getting suc-cess," he said. "The players don't change, but the mentali-

the other team. You alter your style of play slightly, because what you might be able to get away with in the Premiership. make as many mistakes."

scribe to people the type of feeling I'll get walking out there on March 3rd - Inter Milan, Ronaldo, Baggio, whatever. These are things of boyhood dreams.

"Growing up in – I wouldn't say a ghetto, but in a very low environment - to think one day I'd be here, rubbing shoulders with the likes of these guvs. Man, if you can't enjoy those moments and make it a night to remember, knowing you're coming off that pitch having given it everything, then you shouldn't be there." And even though Ronaido, after all, will probably not be there, you get the impression nothing is going me: You know who you're play- golfer - when the weather's ty changes because there's a Yorke's face for a while,

Villa hope to turn back clock Goldberg offers to Charlton's success has coincided with a more circumspect attitude as their midfield alors AS JOHN GREGORY reflected BY GUY HODGSON things right. But the most basic "Last Sunday was a start in thing is that we have to start stopping the rot," Southgate

on the first anniversary of his appointment as Aston Villa manager this week, a tantalising prospect opened. If his players can only repeat what they did last season, then a championship could be theirs.

Gregory arrived as Mr Who? on 25 February 1998 but his identity was forged by a run-in that yielded 27 from a possible 33 points. Twelve months on, a similar ratio from the last 12 games would have Villa there or thereabouts at the top of the Premiership in May. At the very least, it would earn them qualification for the Champions'

On the basis of what you have done before you can do again, the prospect is not daunting and, on paper, the task looks easier. Gregory was confronted by a demoralised squad that had lost successive games and were in 15th place when he arrived from Wycombe with his resuscitation kit Fifteen points better off this time around from one game fewer, the patient is positively sprightly in comparison.

And yet, paradoxically, he is facing possibly the most difficult time at Villa Park as confidence ebbs away. Young players, such as Gareth Barry and Lee Hendrie, have looked jaded, more experienced bodies have either been off form or injured, while Stan Collymore is depressed. One point from four games has detached them from the leading pack and not

lightened the mood. Today they meet Coventry, who arguably contributed as much as anyone to Brian Little's departure and Gregory's arrival last February by winning their first ever game at Villa Park. They are troubled by relegation worries, Villa are just troubled, and a West Midlands derby that is never noted for its genteel air ought to be just a little robust this afternoon.

"We've got to get our season on track," Gareth Southgate, the Villa captain, said. "Things could go either way now so it's a vitally important game. We've had long discussions round the dinner table at the training ground and we have a fair idea of what has to be done to put

keeping clean sheets again. That was our strength at the start of the season and that's why we were top of the table. It's no coincidence since we have not been as solid that we've been slipping. Gregory adopted a back four

against Wimbledon on Sunday to allow Barry a much-needed break and may forgo the sweeper system again. The versatile Dion Dublin is an option in defence, although he will be anxious to play up front, his groin injury willing, against the team who sold him to Villa for £5.75m in November.

said, "and we're only a few points away from a Champions' League spot. No side is pulling away massively. There is a determination not to let the sea-

son just slip away." On the subject of rot elimination, Chariton could rival Rentokil at the moment as three successive wins have promoted them out of the relegation places for the first time in 10 weeks. Today they meet the Premiership's whipping boys, Nottingham Forest, at The Valley and for the first time in a long while they will begin a game as favourites.

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attitude, as their midfield playthe Premier League the first goal is all important," he said. You can't afford to give it away early. We're learning to keep things tight, to spoil things a bit

and hit teams on the break. Wins are so hard to come by at this level, so if you get three on the trot it makes a substantial difference. That's why the Forest match is so important to both clubs. They are running out of games, so for them it will be all or nothing."

Everton, Blackburn and Southampton are also being confronted by do-or-die situations and, of the three, the Merseysiders appear to have the easiest task today: a home game against Wimbledon. Even that has provisos, as the visitors have lost only one of their six Premiership visits to Goodison.

Brian Kidd, who rivalled King 13 games as Blackburn manager, is back to base metal after successive defeats and an injury FIORENTINA, RECENTLY dislist that amounts to £30m in unused talent. A point today at West Ham is the least he requires. Southampton, meanwhile,

will hope that a good home record against Manchester United can be transported to Old Trafford. Precedent does not encourage them, however, as they have won only once in their last 25 League visits there. Still, with Matt Le Tissier fit again and with home minds bound to be wandering to Wednesday's European Cup quarter-final against Internazionale, anything is possible.

er Keith Jones explained. "In MARK GOLDBERG says he will BY ALAN NIXON of £663,000 a year, a figure that

pay Crystal Palace players wages out of his own pocket following a financial crisis at Selhurst Park. The Palace chairman Goldberg has stepped in after play-ers were told a cash flow

problem at the First Division club meant they would not be paid this weekend. Wages were due to go through today. "Mr Goldberg has guaranteed that the wages of both players and staff will be paid in full

said. "They will be paid with his own personal money." Efforts to sell some of the club's bigger earners have failed herause their salaries are so high that other clubs cannot afford them. The Australian centre-

ingham City and Leeds United Goldberg hoped to sell Moore at

2700,000 from Rangers, but now may have to cut his losses Palace have also been trying to sell Lee Bradbury, again to Birmingham, for around film. He is on a more modest salary

by Wednesday;" a spokesman Rumours of Palace's plight have been rife for weeks. Their caretaker-manager, Steve Coppell, warned the players there would be no money for wages and Goldberg told him to raise £2.5m by the transfer deadline Paulo Wanchope's agent Den- of the season. half Craig Moore is on a package

Smith after the Derby manager voiced his concern at the playhas frightened off both Birmer's failure to sign a new contract. Smith fears the striker might wait for his present deal a profit after buying him for .o expire at the end of next season and then cash in on a move under the Bosman ruling, Talks between Smith, the Costa Rican and Roach have been going on for nine months

"To be honest, I don't know of around £6,000 a week, but a the reason why he hasn't swap deal involving Nicky signed." Smith said. "It would Forster was called off yesterday. make him one of the best-paid players at the club. I wonder whether he's being given the wrong advice about his future by those who are close to him."

Barnsley have signed Clayton Blackmore from Middlesbrough, on a free transfer, until the end The Urited

Brian Kidd, who rivalled King Midas with one defeat in his first 12 comes as Riackhurn manag. Fiorentina missing 'Batigol'

placed by Lazio at the top of Serie A and still missing Gabriel Batistuta, their brilliant Argentine striker, face a tricky trip to Salerno to meet struggling Salernitana in tomorrow's live

game on Channel 4. Fiorentina took Serie A by storm in the first half of the season, with Batistuta hammering in an amazing 18 league goals and Edmundo, the temperament but talented Brazilian. plus the Portuguese playmaker Rui Costa providing tremendous service around him.

ITALIAN FOOTBALL BY IAN DAVIES

a knee injury in Fiorentina's goalless draw against Milan in Florence recently and, without him, his side looked impotent up front when held 0-0 by Roma in Florence last week.

Serie A new boys Salernitana meanwhile, despite the presence of the useful striker Marco Di Vaio, look destined for a swift return to Serie B. They lie 17th of 18 (Empoli are bottom) in Serie A following last week's 2-1 However, "Botigol" sustained home defeat against Parma.

Meanwhile, Internazionale, hard-to-beat at home (eight wins, two defeats this term in the league) but woeful away (two wins, four draws and six defeats) entertain Juventus tonight, ahead of Wednesday's European Cup quarter-final with Manchester United Inter will gain still be without Ronaldo. "Il Fenomeno" sat out last week's defeat at Lazio despite being passed fit and seems unlikely to figure at Old Trafford. Andrey to Light et Olu I (alloru. Tits afternoom Roma v Milan; Piscenza v Bologna; Tealight: Internazionale v Juventus; Parma v Perugla, Tetaorrow afteraogu: Bari v Cagliari; Empoli v Sampidota; Salemitana v Florentina; Venezia v Udinese; Vicenza v Lazio.

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York Weekend guide to the Premiership



Chelsea v Liverpool

Last season: 4-1

IT WILL be a relieved Gianluca Vialli at Stamford Bridge today for the visit of Liverpool, as the player-coach can at last choose from the plethora of striking options he has become so richly accustomed to in

West London. Vialli's Norwegian pine was cured last week with the sight of Tore Andre Flo returning to the fray, albeit as a substitute, in the 3-1 win at Nottingham Forest. Flo has been troubled by an ankle injury incurred in the FA Cup third-round tie at Oldham Athletic back on 2 January, but showed at the

City Ground that he is close to full fitness With Italian compatriot Gianfranco Zola in fine form, Vialli may summon Fio to start at the expense of his Finnish wunderkind

..And statistics

BY BRUCE POPE

Mikael Forssell, while Vialli always has the

option of giving himself a run-out. The defence, with the France pairing of Franck Leboeuf (left) and Marcel Desailly providing a formidable central pairing, is further bolstered by the return of Graeme Le Saux and Michael Duberry to fitness.

Even more importantly, though, could be the availability of Roberto Di Matteo in the absence of the suspended Dennis Wise. While a Wise versus Paul Ince midfield battle would undoubtedly have set the fur flying. Di Mat-teo's role at least means that Chelsea have a better than even chance of finishing with the full complement of 11 players on the pitch.

Ham last weekend, will be champing at the hit to get back in the action. Unfortunately for the Liverpool manager, Gérard Houllier, as one player returns, others depart.

The Merseysiders must view their visit to Stamford Bridge as one of the last real opportunities to get back on the championship pace, but will be without key defenders Jamie Carragher and Rigobert Song. Carragher's three-match ban sidelines bim until the Easter Saturday derby with Everton, while Song

is on international duty with Cameroon. However, Houllier will be the first to admit that the current Liverpool team rarely wins matches through its defensive prowess, instead counting on Michael Owen (right) and

Clive Mendonca of Chariton, one of the clubs

to predict the season's winners and losers

Clear cut defeats

Nottingham Forest

Southampton

West Hem

Rixkbum

Charlton

Liverpool

that has shown recently that it's too early yet

Anyone can beat anyone – some results from 1998-99

rest; who won 2-1 against Southampton, who won 2-

against Coventry, who won 2-1-against Chelses, who --

Manchester United won 8-1 against Nottingham

won 2-1 against Aston Villa, who won 3-2 against

Arsenal, who won 5-0 against Leicester, who won 2-1

who won 3-1 against Wimbledon, who won 2-1 against

against Liverpool, who won 2-0 against Blackburn, who

won 1-0 against Leeds, who won 4-0 against West Ham,

Middlesbrough, who 4-0 against Sheffield Wednesday,

who won 3-1 against **Manchester United,** who won...

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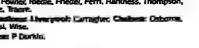
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Charleon, who won 2-0 against Derby, who won 2-1

who won 2-1 against Everton, who won 5-0 against -

Ince, banned for the 2-2 draw with West Robbie Fowler to enact their terrible twins show and pepper the opponent's goal instead. Big guns still need a good supply of ammunition, though, and Patrik Berger, back in contention after his hamstring injury, may well figure in Houllier's plans. The Frenchman may consider reverting to a 4-4-2 formation in order to accommodate both Berger and Steve "Real deal" McManaman. CHELSEA (from): De Goey, Hirchcock, Le Saux, Ferrer, Lebosuf, Desally, Duberry, Lambourde, Terry, Babayaro, Pe-rescu, Goldbaek, Di Macreo, Morris, Nicholis, Newton, Zola, Flo, Forssell, Vialli.

LIVERPOOL (from): James, Heggern, Staunton, Macreo, Babb, Bjornebys, McManaman, Ince, Redknapp, Berger, Dwen, Fowler, Riedle, Friedel, Ferri, Harkness, Thompson, Number, Tracre.







Aston Villa v Coventry Last season: 3-0

MIDFIELDER MARK DRAPER returns to the Aston Villa squad after five games out following an ankle operation. Alan Thompson is in danger of missing out as he continues to struggle with an ankie injury. The Villa manager, John Gregory, has to decide whether to recall central defender Gareth Barry as his side look to end the four-match losing sequence that has seen them move from title-contenders to 66-1 outsiders in a matter of weeks. Gregory rested England Under-21 international Barry for last weekend's goalless draw at Wimbledon. Goalkeeper Mark Bosnich, who has not played since damaging a shoulder against Coventry at Highfield Road in October, is struggling

to make his long-awaited return. Coventry's former Portsmouth striker John Aloisi and their Norwegian international midfielder Trond Egil Soltvedt are on stand-by to play. Aloisi will start if Noel Whelan fails a fitness test on an injured shoulder and Soltvedt will replace George Boateng if the Dutchman is still unwell. Coventry have been beaten home and away by Villa for the last three seasons. ASTON WILL'A (from) Oakes, Masson, Scimeca, Southgate, Barry, Wright, Taylor, Hendrie, Orapso, Grayson, Thompson, Merson, Dublin, Joachim, Collymore, Samuel, Vassell, Enchelman.

STRENTRY CTY (from): Hedman, Nilsson, Williams, Shaw, Burrows, Telfer, Areng, McAllister, Froggaft, Huckerby, Whelan, Alolsi, Soltvedt, Cement, Kon-ic, Breen, Edwordby, Ograsovic.



Nottingham Forest

THE CHARLTON manager, Alan Curbishley, will be without defenders Eddie Youds and Richard Rutus for the relegation six-pointer with Nottingham Forest at The Valley. Youds is suffering with a knee injury while Rufus has broken his wrist, so Carl Tiler and Steve Brown are likely to be the centre-back

Ron Atkinson, the Nottingham Forest manager, will await news of a late fitness test on John Harkes before finalising his line-up. The experienced right-back missed last weekend's 3-1 defeat against Cheisea because of a calf injury but hopes to

get the all clear to return. Forest will definitely be without suspended pair Alan Rogers and Andy Johnson, while Jon Olav Hjelde and Hugo forfirio are ruled out by groin and hamstring injuries

Stale Stensaas is likely to replace Rogers at left-back and Scot Gemmill is poised to take over from Johnson in midfield. Chariton Athletic (from) Royce, Barnes, Barness, Beale, Bright, Brown, Fortune, Holmes, Hunt, Ilic. S Jones, K Jones, Kinsella, Konchesky, Lisble, Mendonca, Mills, Mortimer, Newton, Parker, Powell, Pringle, Redfearn, Robinson,

Northegham Forest (from): Beasant, Harkes, Louis-Jean, Chettle, Fairner, Edwards, Mattsson, Stensaas, Stone, Quashie, Gemmill, Bonalair, Van Hooljdonk, Darcheville, Shipperley, Bart-Williamii, Freedman, Woan, Crossley.



Everton v Wimbledon Last season: 0-0



DON HUTCHISON, Everton's newly converted striker, is out of today's game against Wimbledon because of a one-match suspension. Hutchison, who is on the brink of signing a new, longterm contract as well as a call-up for Scotland, will have to sit out the game at Goodison Park.

Also out for the home side is Ibrahima Bakayoko, who is away on international duty with the Ivory Coast for today's African Nations' Cup tie with Congo.

It means that the Everton manager Walter Smith will be left with a teenage strikeforce of Francis Jeffers and Danny Cadamarteri.

Michael Hughes returns to the Wimbledon squad after flu ruled him out of last Sunday's goalless draw against Aston Villa. The visitors, who have not scored in their last six cup and League games, will be without Carl Leaburn, out with a thigh injury, and John Hartson is still banned. They have lost only one of their six Premiership visits to Everton but three of them have been goalless.

Everton (from): Myhre, Ball, Watson, Unsworth, Materazzi, Dunne, Oster, Weir, Dacourt, Barmby, Grant. Jeffers, Cadamarteri, Branch, Simonsen, Milligan, Jevons. Winnbledon (from): Sullivan, Cunningham, Thatther, Blackwell, Perry, M Hughes, Earle, Roberts, Euell, Ekoku, Gayle, Kennedy, C Hughes, Cort, Kimble, Heald, Everton: Hutchison, Winnbledon: Hartson.



Manchester United y Southampton

ALEX FERGUSON, the United manager, has to decide whether o risk Jaap Stam against Southampton at Old Trafford today. Stam has been having treatment on a hamstring injury all week and may start on the bench as Ferguson eyes next Wednesday's Champions' League quarter-final first leg match against Internazionale. United have no fresh injury worries, leaving Ferguson with plenty of options against the Saints.

Matt Le Tissier, Southampton's inconsistent midfielder, is poised to return to their starting line-up following injury. Le Tissier has been out for four weeks with a torn hamstring but made an untroubled comeback for the reserves in midweek. The Channel Islander is likely to replace Hassan Kachloul, the Moroccan international, who is away on international duty. Mark Hughes misses the game against his former club because of suspension. James Beattie, however, is optimistic of a return despite a groin injury, while Stuart Ripley is battling to recover from a calf problem. Francis Benali and Scott Marshall are both back in contention following long-term injuries.

MANCHESTER UNITED [from): Schmeichel, G Neville, Johnsen, Berg, Stam, Irwin, P Neville, Beckham, Keane, Butt, Scholes, Blomqvist, Giggs, Cole, Yorke, Solskiaer, Brown, van der Grouw.

[SQUTHAMPTON: [from]. Jones, Dodd. Monkou. Lundekvam, Colleter, Le Tissier, Barsden, Colleter, Bridge, Ostensfad, Beatrie, Benall, Hiley, Marshall, D Hoghes, Howells, Bradley, Monis, Moss.

[Syspensions: Southearmann, Linnand.]



Convincingly when they win at all.

On the other hand, Derby, Wimbledon, Aston Vilia and Arsenal have as many as eight victories by just a single goal to their credit. Nottingham Forest are the only side not to have managed a win by two clear goals this season. Considering Forest's position, it's not surprising they've chalked up the most clear-cut defeats. Besides the 8-1 capitulation to Manchester United, there have been eight other defeats by at least two clear goals. Of concern to Middlesbrough and Wimbledon must be the fact that all but one of their defeats have been clear-cut. Arsenal and Chelsea, on the other hand, have yet to lose by more than a single goal, while Tottenham under George Graham are showing they can grind out points from 0-0s with the best of them.

Stalemates on the rise

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Everton	26	19.	73
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Winning in style		
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Tolteniam	Programme To	5, 5, 129,	

TOMORROW (4PM)

NEWCASTLE WILL give fitness tests to the flu-stricken Alan Shearer and Didier Domi ahead of tomorrow's game with the champions Arsenal at St James' Park. Domi is expected to recover but Shearer remains a doubt and if the England captain fails a late fitness test Louis Saha, who scored the only goal in the FA Cup replay against Blackburn on Wednesday, will deputise once again.

Midfielder Stephen Glass will also have to prove he is ready to return from a knee injury, while new signing Silvio Maric is short of match fitness after his move from Croatia Zagreb.

Newcastle v Arsenal Last season: 0-1

"I'm very happy to come to Newcastle because it's a big club and I come from a small country," he said. "I played against Newcastle in the qualification for the Champions' League two years ago so I know some of the players.

"I need some time but I'm looking forward to playing in the Premiership." Rund Gullit was enthusiastic about his new signing. "Silvio is a player we followed for a couple of months and gives us more quality in the team," he said.

Central defender Martin Keown returns for Arsenal after four games out with a hamstring injury but their midfielder

Statistics: Brian Sears/

Nick Harris

Emmanuel Petit faces another two weeks on the sidelines after a slight setback to his ankle injury.

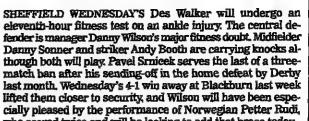
The visitors have achieved Premiership

doubles the past two seasons and have an opportunity to make it three having won the first game at Highbury 3-0. They also secured last year's double against Newcastle with a 2-0 win in the FA Cup Final. Nesscastia United (from): Given, Harpet, Barron, Domi, Griffin, Charvet, Howey, Dablzas, Hamann, Speed, Solano, Glass, Brady, Lee, Shearet, Kessbala, Saha, Dalgish, Arasanai (from): Seaman, Ywas, Winterburn, Adams, Bould, Keown, Parlour, Vicira, Hughes, Overmars, Anelka, Bergkamp, Kanu, Diawara, Grimanoi, Garde, Manninger, Arasanai Hamanninger, Manninger, Manni



Sheff Wed v Middlesbrough

Last season: No fixture



who scored twice and will be looking to add that brace today. Middlesbrough's Curtis Fleming will be out for the rest of the season, having had surgery on a troublesome knee cartilage injury. Gianhuca Festa will also be missing at Hillsborough with a hamstring problem. Manager Bryan Robson will be able to include Colombian Hamilton Ricard, who has recovered from an ankle injury. Boro have won two of their three visits to Hillsborough since the Premiership started but are currently with-

out a win in their last nine League matches.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (from) Pressman, Atherton, Jonk, Newsome, Walker, Carbone, Booth, Sanetti, Coblan, Humphreys, Briscoe, Stefanovic, Oakes, Hinch-Chire, Ernarion, Rudi. Aliminos mon. Sonnot, Climbo.

MEDOLESBROUGH (from): Schwarzer, Beresford, Stockdate, Cooper, Vickers, Pal-Bster, Gordon, Musroe, Gascoigne, Townsend, Beck, Ricard, Summerbell, Maddison, Campbell, Moore, Harrison.



Tottenham v Derby

Last season: 1-0

TOTTENHAM MUST do without Les Ferdinand who was carried off during their FA Cup fifth-round replay victory against Leeds on Wednesday. He was concussed, as he was against Middlesbrough last Saturday, and is likely to be replaced by Chris Armstrong. Defender Ramon Vega is likely to shake off the effects of an ankie knock with George Graham's only other absentee being John Scales.

Derby are likely to field 10 of the side that beat Huddersfield in the FA Cup on Wednesday. Only the suspended captain Igor Stimac will miss out. Jacob Laursen is back after serving a one-match ban and Spencer Prior could also return to the defence after missing the Cup tie because of a family

Darryl Powell injured his neck in training this week so is London for Derby. Their last win at White Hart Lane was in November 1989.

Tottenbare Hotsper (from) Walker, Carr. Freund, Anderton, Edinburgh, Ginola, Vega, Iversen, Campbell, Sherwood, Baardsen, Nielsen, Armstrong, Sinton,

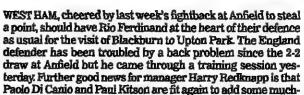
Derby County: (from): Houls, Prior, Laursen, Carbonari, Schnoor, Eranio, Carsley, go. Baiano, Burton. Wanchope, Poom, Sturridge, Delap, Harpe uus Carr, Derbys Stimac.

Referee: J Winter.

off a virus to declare himself fit for action.



West Ham v Blackburn Last season: 2-1



Jason McAteer and Matt Jansen look certain to return to Blackburn's line-up to boost the Lancashire club's battle against relegation. The duo, part of manager Brian Kidd's extensive rebuilding plans, were both cup-tied for the midweek FA Cup exit to Newcastle, but Rovers have a host of bad news to offset their return. Jeff Kenna suffered a calf muscle tear against Newcastle and is likely to be missing for up to two months. Chris Sutton, Christian Dailly and Stephane Henchoz are still missing, while Garry Flitcroft and Billy McKinlay are both out for the season.

needed guile to the Hammers front line. Joe Cole has thrown

BLACKBURN ROVERS (from): Filan, Peacock, Broomes, Davidson, Gillespie, Mar colin, Wilcox, Duff, Bisie, Davies, Croft, Durn, Flowers, Ward, Johnson, Jansen, McAzes

MONDAYERM

Last season: 1-0



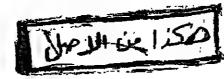
Leicester v Leeds

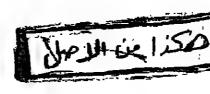


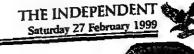
FILBERT STREET on Monday night will see the meeting of two sides desperate to put disappointing defeats behind them. Seven days ago Leicester manager Martin O'Neill watched in disbelief as his team, usually so full of defiance in the face of superior forces, crumbled to the tune of 5-0 at Arsenal. Leeds' manager David O'Leary will also want to banish a painful memory, that of George Graham sending his former club tumbling out of the FA Cup at Tottenham in midweek. O'Leary now knows that the Premiership is his last hope for European action next season, but has often said that he expects his gaggle of young players to tire as the season reaches its climax. He will have

land midfielder David Batty should be back in action just as Leeds' fledglings are feeling the pace. O'Neill forced his Foxes squad to sit through a re-run of the Highbury horror show on video, which must have made gruesome viewing. Although the chub are through to their second League Cup final in three years, things are less than rosy in the Premiership. Leicester are without a win since Boxing Day and have slipped perilously into the bottom seven after collecting just three points from the last six games.

been cheered this week by the news that his combative Eng-









5P()RT

E12.6M BARGAIN P30 HEAVYWEIGHT BURDEN P22 O YORKE,



Rusedski hits the heights

BY JOHN ROBERTS

in Battersea

THE BRITISH challenge continues in the £510,000 Guardian Direct Cup today. Greg Rusedski produced some of his finest tennis to defeat Sweden's Thomas Enqvist 7-5, 4-6, 6-3 in the quarter-finals vesterday.

Rusedski saved his best for the final set, minimising Enqvist's prospects with an impressive display of returning serve to complement his increasingly confident attacking game. "If I play like that I'll be back in the top five," Rusedski

The British No 2 needs to consolidate his position, which is No 10 in the world at the moment. He has a heap of ranking points to defend next month at Indian Wells, California, where he reached the final last March before losing to the Chilean Marcelo Rios.

There were phases during yesterday's match when Rusedski, the No 3 seed, seemed vuinerable against Enqvist, seeded sixth, who was the runner-up to Yevgeny Kafelnikov at the Australian Open. But fears that Rusedski would be overhauled quickly disappeared once he had broken to take a 4-2 lead in the third set. He finished with a total of 20 aces to Enqvist's 16. Perhaps even more significant, the Swede committed 10 doublefaults to Rusedski's three during the one hour and 38 minutes' play.

Rusedski made a brisk start, although his early successes were deceptive, often gained as a result of his opponent's errors. The Swede, for example, double-faulted twice in the second game before hitting a backlong from Rus

Enqvist immediately had an opportunity to get back into the set, but Rusedski was able to save a break point with a forehand drive and was rather fortunate with his touch on a forehand volley on the last point. Rusedski then had two break points for a 4-0 lead, which would have been flattering. Instead, Enqvist man-

aged to salvage his first game. After putting together three aces in taking a 4-1 lead, Rusedski was unable to deny Enqvist in the seventh game, the Swede delivering a fierce return off a second serve. Rusedski got his racket to the ball, but could only watch as it flew out of bounds. Games went with serve until 6-5, although Rusedski voiced



second service return to be bro- The British No 2, Greg Rusedski, delivers a backhand on his way to a 7-5, 4-6, 6-3 victory over Thomas Enqvist at Battersea Park yesterday

his disappointment with a line call before saving a break point.

The concluding game of the set provided welcome entertainment. Enqvist, leading 30-15 on serve, was involved in a long rally of improvised shots. The Swede retrieved an angled forehand by Rusedski and then returned a lob between his legs. Rusedski made the mistake of placing his next shot on Enqvist's racket - but the Swede obliged by netting a forehand. Enqvist followed that by missing a backhand volley to offer a set point, which Rused-

ski converted. Both players disputed line calls and overules in the second set. Rusedski may have been lucky at times in the opening set, but Enqvist benefited when his forehand was ruled good on break point, enabling him to start his comeback by breaking for 1-0. Rusedski, who ought to have done better with an earlier overhead, showed his dis-

placing it on the line. Enqvist held for 2-0 and both players indulged in a silly example of tit-for-tat in the third game. Enqvist lifted the ball and placed it beyond the service line after Rusedski claimed a serve had been good. Rusedski responded by jumping over the net and putting another ball on the line.

By now the aces were flowing. Rusedski advanced his tally to 14 - with a second serve

- in saving two set points at 4-5. Enqvist also delivered his 14th ace when serving for the set and, after hitting successive double-faults, he managed to draw level after 72 minutes.

Rusedski proved to have dain by picking up the ball and more in reserve, and was particularly pleased with his service returns. "They're not as stylish as Korda's or Agassi's," he conceded, "but I'm making them deep and putting them in

He now plays the gifted but erratic Morrocan Hicham Arazi in the semi-finals. Asked if he had decided to switch permanently to the new Donnay racket he is using, Rusedski just smiled and said: "I'm just try-

ing it." He added: "But the

racket has a 7-2 win-loss record at the moment."

Richard Krajicek, the 1996 Wimbledon champion, seeded No 4 here, overpowered Karol Kucera, the fourth seed, 6-1, 6-3 after only 53 minutes. The Slovak had not been on the back foot so often since Pete Sampras wiped the court with him in Hanover last November to celebrate a sixth consecutive

year as the world No 1. Krajicek returned to the Netherlands to attend the funeral this morning of his Dutch compatriot Menno Costing. who was killed in a car crash this week. A private aircraft will bring Krajicek back to London for the semi-finals.

AN OFFICIAL from the Football

Association is to meet the Ital-

ian striker Paolo Di Canio after

West Ham's controversial

striker cast doubt on Alcock's claims that he suffered physi-

cally as a result of Di Canio push-

ing him over after being sent of

while playing for Sheffield

Wednesday against Arsenal at

Hillsborough last September. The Italian earned an 11-

match ban for the offence, and

the FA is determined to prevent

any further detrimental moves

by the Italian by serving a

"The FA compliance officer,

Graham Bean, will be meeting

with Paolo Di Canio next week

to discuss his remarks with a

view to warning him about his

future conduct," an FA

spokesman said. "We feel that

it is obviously time to draw a line

Tottenham have been ac-

cused of making an illegal approach to the Ipswich coach

Stewart Houston in their at-

tempts to persuade him to be-

come George Graham's No 2.

prise, given that during their five

years together at Arsenal from

1990 Graham and Houston won

the title in 1991, a domestic cup

Sheepshanks, said that he had

The move comes as little sur-

under this episode."

warning to him in person.

his latest comments about the referee, Paul Alcock

Di Canio set

for FA meeting

Coach backs Henman over Kafelnikov jibe

day defended Britain's No 1 after criticism that he is not focused on climbing to the top of the world rankings.

David Felgate was responding to comments from Yevgeny Kalehikov who has urged Henman to cut down on his sponsorship commitments if he wants to becoming one of the game's great players.

Felgate said: "When Tim wins the press don't seem to have too many complaints. Then when he loses they are

BY TOMMY STANIFORTE

failed in his attempts to hold

Houston to his contract and

claimed that Tottenham had

contacted the coach a full month

before finally making an official

approach. He has made formal

complaints to the Premier

League and the Football League

and is still attempting to receive

compensation. Sheepshanks,

the deputy chairman of the Foot-

hall League added that Houston

would be leaving Ipswich after

today's game at Bristol City

his relief at being reunited with

his family after learing for their

safety as they were caught up

in the Alps avalanche disaster

The Aston Villa forward's wife

and three children were cut off

for seven days during a skiing

things happening on television

and you don't pay that much at-

tention," Merson said. "But

then, when you've got your own

family right in the middle of it.

Everton's manager, Walter Smith, hopes to sign Kevin

Campbell, currently in dispute

with Trabzonspor, on loan for

the rest of the season. The for-

mer Arsenal striker wants to

leave the Turkish side after

falling out with the chairman.

it really scares you to death."

"You look at those sort of

Paul Merson has spoken of

against his wishes.

holiday in Austria

TIM HENMAN'S coach yester- looking for a story or a reason why he played a bad match. Tim has some great sponsors whom he serves very well. They are fantastic with his time. I can't

> thing for them. "It is beyond belief that any time he doesn't play so well there are questions asked. He is seventh in the world. There are six players better than him. and his aim is to get to No 1. He can't be doing too many things

remember the last time he

spent a day this year doing any-

Cardiff cash in at Sale

BY CHRIS HEWETT

SALE. THE only thite club in the North-west of England, last night emerged as the latest tar-Cardiff, who are looking to k. the chaotic Welsh scene bei by buying their way into the Allied Dunbar Premiership. The Sale management board rejected reports that a deal had been agreed, but sources at the Arms Park said Cardiff officials were confident of completing a

takeover in the near future. Cardiff are also thought to have made overtures to Bedford and West Hartlepool, two other struggling Premiership outfits, but Sale would be much the most attractive proposition.

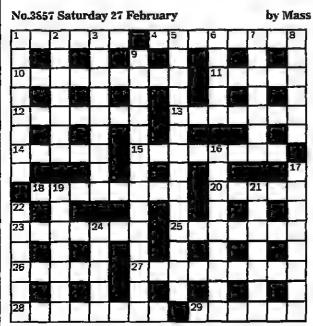
The consortium currently financing the side owns only the players, the staff and the fixture list, the ownership of the Heywood Road ground and infrastructure lies with the old amateur club. The Welshmen would be only too happy to incorporate Sale's top-ranked players - Shane Howarth, David Rees, Steve Hanley and Dic# O'Cuinneagain – into a squad already boasting a full hand of international talent.

Peter Thomas, the financial power behind Cardiff and an implacable opponent of the Welsh Rugby Union, met his players earlier this week and assured them they would be playing Allied Dunbar rugby next season. Cardiff and Swansea have been playing unsanctioned friendly matches against English opposition since last September and the rebel clubs were fined by the WRU before Christmas, But though the fines are due to be Allsport | paid this weekend, Thomas has no intention of coughing up. If the fines remain outstanding, the WRU will almost certainly suspend both clubs from union membership next month.

Earlier this week, Tom Walkinshaw, the chairman of English First Division Rugby, indicated that "initiatives were in progress" to resolve the Cardiff and Swansea issue. Although he refused to expand, he said he was confident that the problem of the rebel Weish clubs would be resolved in time for next season. Regulations do not prevent the purchase of one club by another, but any Welsh purchase of an English club would involve the International Rugby Board and throw the British game into more chaos.

More rugby, page 23

THE SATURDAY CROSSWORD



Friday's solution

Last Saturday's solution

ACROSS

1 This setter's in a Note's reverberating. smooth and rich (8) 10 Local school on isle,

second amongst clo-11 Carpenter's initial pine supply (5) 12 Ship's tackle and

sheets - both sound (7), 13 This makes one tear in? Must be wrong (7) 14 Greek character of handsome Galatea (5)15 Driving instructor (8)

20 Round gold coin (5) 23 Pace is relaxed around mid-January - good sign (7) 25 Digital factor making transmitted resonance

18 Agree with shrink (8)

26 Europeans with no advanced Northern origins (5) 27 Pay's made up with dud note? Lumme! (9)

by American (6)

DOWN

1 Draught is rising in office (8) Drug, killer, taken between joint and

Ecstasy (7) Branch managed held by Italian

peripatetic (9) Assuming rank's a place for a taxi occasionally? (7.7) Charm secures

Conservative gain (5) Letter has names responsible for fires (7) Old-time citizen's article on prohibition (6)

A footnote? (14) 16 Sue's writing with diminished energy (9) 17 Ancient ascetics, types without sex appeal (8) 19 Monitor outside

breadcast covering minister (7) 21 Those cruising for fish,

casting line (7) 22 Close call (4,2) 28 Bars before flues (8) 29 Against lines in speech

The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardbacked copies of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P. C. Box 4018. The bidependent, 1 Canada Square, Camary Wharf, London E14 5BL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: W Marlar, Woolhope; J Blunden, Welwyn Garden City: S Chase, Holl Green; L Pitman, Greenway; G Maclennan, Dublin.

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double in 1993 and the Cup-Winners' Cup in 1994. The Ipswich chairman, David

\$ 630 9 0

IN MONDAY'S 12-PAGE SPORTS SECTION



This season's Serie A title looks beyond their reach, Ronaldo's continuing knee problems mean he misses today's match against Juventus and next week Manchester United stand in their path in the Champions' League. Are Internazionale in crisis? RICHARD WILLIAMS reports from Milan

EEKEND REVH

THE QUEEN OF FASHION FLIES IN

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PROFILE, PAGE 5



RURAL RAGE: WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON?

FEATURES, PAGE 8



THE DARK SIDE: N. S. **PLANTS FOR** SHADY SPOTS

GARDENING, PAGE 17



TRAVEL, PAGE 21



nce, I almost wrote a book called The Hungry Heart: One Man's Quest To Understand How Women Think About Food. I never wrote it because I thought I would never achieve the quest, and perhaps also because I was frightened of trespassing on such intimate territory.

Nevertheless, I remain fascinated by the way women relate to food - how it has a whole series of layers of meaning for them that seem to be more or less absent from the male psyche. How it often represents control, and love, and guilt, and self-punishment, and communication. How so many women I have met experience anxiety and even fear in relation to food. How beliefs about food operate almost as a small-scale secular religion, including as they do themes of purity, redemption, sin and virtue.

To help me to understand the subject better, I sat down to dinner with three women and discussed, for an evening, how they feel about food. During the meal I frequently felt that I existed, as a man, in a parallel universe - that the matters that they found compelling and which had a powerful effect on their behaviour were a mystery to me.

Jane Green: I'm pretty frightened of food really. I was never very good at expressing emotion, so I try to express emotion through food.

Tim Lott: (to Brix Smith): Tell me if there's any

thing on this menu that you find disgusting? Brix Smith: Almost everything. Not on a major level but in terms of how fattening it is, and how it's prepared. Every time I go out to eat with anybody, it's the same, unless I'm incredibly lowand then I feel I deserve something, It's a reward. Tim: For what?

had a really hard day, if it's been really stressful, I need it. If I'm in a bad state, I immediately want to throw it up.

Tim: Which of these dishes make you go aaaaaargh?

Brbe: You look at things like Cajun spiced goats' cheese. I mean, that sounds good on its own, but it's in filo pastry so that's out... It all starts off good then ends up bad. Look: stir-fried mangetout...

Tim: What are the toxic words for you? Brix: Deep-fried.

Tim: Is it the amount of fat it involves that makes

you nervous? Jane: I worry about carbs: pastry, pasta, bread... Brix: I'm looking at asparagus, lemon juice and oil - but then it's in puff pastry with a lime hol-landaise. That's just sinful.

Tim: Sinful That's an interesting word, as though it's about morality. Brix: It's characterised by the feeling that if I've

had a good day, it's because I've eaten well.

Suste: By which you mean you've eaten according to the set of rules which you have laid down for yourself.

Tim: Is that about keeping chaos at bay?

Susie: So how do you manage a menu like this? Brix: I will have gazpacho and then I will have salad. The rocket salad. But I won't have the croftons or the bacon. That seems safe. I used to be so bad when I first came here [from California] that I would carry my own skimmed milk in my bag so I could have a cappuccino with skimmed milk - and it used to drive everyone crazy.

Tim: Do you think what you eat has an effect on your mood? Brix and Jane: Absolutely!

Jane: At the end of every day, you go over what you've eaten: has it been a good day or a bad day? You are a good person or a bad person depending on that

women. It's become a kind of moral system: a way of assessing whether you are a good person. A man would not get that feeling. Jane: Exercise is the same thing.

Tim: Overcoming sloth or greed? Brbc I used to be obsessed with exercise, as well.

It's really vicious - it makes you feel you've done something today. Tim: How much of your time do you spend thinking about these issues?

Brix: What takes up a lot of time for me is combining: you don't mix protein or carbohydrates, so there are a lot of calculations.

Jane: Does anyone have an uncomplicated relationship with food?

Susie: I have had issues around it, but it was a very long time ago. Jane: So you actually managed to put those is-

sues to rest? Susie: I hope so, yes.

Jane: That for me is extraordinary, because I think once you do have issues with food you're going to have them for the rest of your life. Suste: I don't believe that. I don't believe it's like being alcoholic. The beauty of it is, because you have the option to eat every time you're hungry you get to solve your problem if you can dare to eat what you are actually hungry for.

Tim: What's the daring about?

Susle: How terrorising food can be for women, which then sets up the idea that these foods are bad and dangerous, these foods are good... Tim: The thing is to rediscover a sort of natur-

al relationship with food.

Jane: When I was a teenager, I lost that rela-

tionship. Of course, what was good and bad food then was very different. Susie: Nutritional theory changes every year. Tim: Then potatoes and pasta were the food of the devil; now they're good. Now purity has be-

come a really huge issue.

Jane: With organic food.

Bris Smith A musician, she grew up in California and moved to London. She played guitar with rock band The Fall. Now 32, she will shortly be presenting a new fashion programme.

She is always on a diet

Now 52, author of

Issue'. A therapist, she

book, 'The impossibility

May. Any problems she

had with food are over

Novelist, 30, author

of 'Jemima J', the story

of a woman who finds

losing weight doesn't

make her happy. Her

next novel, 'Mr Maybe',

is out in June. She has

a turbulent love affair

Jane Green

with food

specialises in eating

disorders. Her latest

of Sex', comes out in

'Fat is a Feminist

Tim: In several ways. Not just the purity of the food, but whether or not it will kill you. Susie: Whether it's psychically poisoning.
Tim: Preservatives, when I was a kid, were considered a boon; now they're a problem. We used to know what we were eating. Now we don't know what the hell it's going to do, or what the longterm effects are going to be. Somehow, food has come to represent purity. Suste: This goes back to the moral issue. You're

like in relation to what you consume.

Writer Tim Lott, left, discusses food obsessions with Brix Smith, centre, Susie Orbach, right, and Jane Green (out of shot) over dinner at Julie's Restaurant Magali Delporte

The dinner party

Tim: What is the moral statement you are making? That you're strong enough?

Jane: I don't care what it's got in it, so long as

it doesn't make me fat. I remember stuffing my face with fat-free, sugar-free yoghurt and not caring that it had a billion terrible things in it. Brix: I wouldn't say I binge, but I allow myself to combine improperly. Sometimes I can't con-

trol it. In my worst stages it will be, like, I've had two cookies now, I've fucked myself for the day, I might as well keep going. I feel very angry with myself because I've failed, I've lost control. Susie: What was eating like in your household when you were growing up?

Brix: My mother's a model. She was stick-thin.

She had an eating problem, which I did not know until I grew up and she told me. My mother had arxiety attacks, she was afraid of choking, so she had only liquid. My father was a Beverly Hills psychiatrist and now he's chief of staff at a state institute for the criminally insane. I started going to a shrink at the age of 12 and I kept going until about 32. I was a very, very skinny child. I only wanted to eat McDonald's or chocolate. So my father would say, "You have to eat. If you do not eat this egg, I will sit on you and shove it down your throat". I was about six when that started. I would eat the egg, then go and throw up. I wouldn't even have to make myself, I just would throw up. Then it became like a weird control thing. I wanted him to love me, so I ate more and more, until I became a chubby teenager. He would say, "Gee, you could be so beautiful if you would just lose weight. I will pay you five dollars for every pound you lose, and when you lose 20 pounds, I

will buy you a whole new wardrobe." Tim: How do you feel when you get on the scales and you've put on weight?

Brix: I can't bear to get on the scales at the moment. I can't bear to look. I only get on them when I feel very thin.

i im: Can you explain mod-con Brix: You can't have protein and carbohydrate at the same time...

Tim: This scientifically makes no sense. Brisc But it always, like, seems to make complete

Susie: It's a way of managing food. It's OK. Makes you feel safe. Brix: Well, I also feel better in terms of digestion and what goes into my stomach. It's like the

Hay diet and the Montignac diet. You have to have fruit on an empty stomach. Tim: Why do you believe this?

Brix: It just makes complete sense. Tim: There are thousands of theories. Why do you believe this one?

Brix: When I tried the Hay diet and really worked hard at it and ate all-organic food, I felt great. I felt I was glowing and my eyes were clear and I was healthy. Jane: As for no carbohydrates, it's not that I think

that carbs are intrinsically bad, but for me they are my trigger food. When I get cravings, it's always for bread or pasta.

Susie: Do you think if you had them in your daily diet, you might neutralise that?

Jane: It's far too frightening even to contemplate. Susie: Why don't you just eat bread? Jane: I think I would balloon.

Susie: But you might find at that point that bread no longer became that magical for you. Jane: I don't think I can do that.

Tim: Have you ever been obese?

Jane: No, but I've been a stone heavier. Tim: And did that make you miserable? Jane: Yes.

Tim: I'm very struck by the passion with which

people who have theories about food believe in them, whereas in fact it's very hard to know these things. Fashions change at incredible pace, but while they are in force, people believe in them very strongly. Food knowledge has become a kind Continued on page 2

etters ____ Leaders and comment

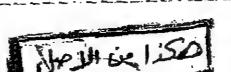
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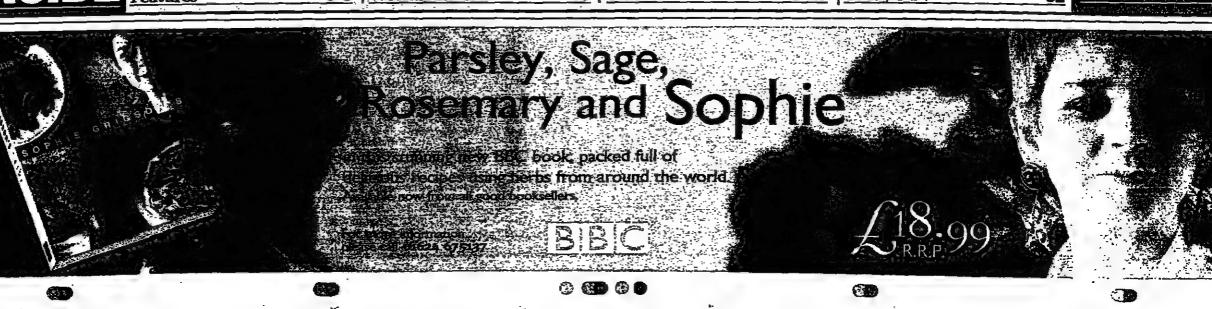
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Miscellany Radio Today's TV









COMPETITION



£15,000-worth of prizes TO BE WON for the best black-and-white images on the theme of celebration

Alain de Botton



Rulers should be ready to deceive, kill and torture

Simon Singh



You may find whale-eating enzymes nibbling your mucky T-shirts

AN Wilson



The Dome has as much to do with Christian tradition as Burger King

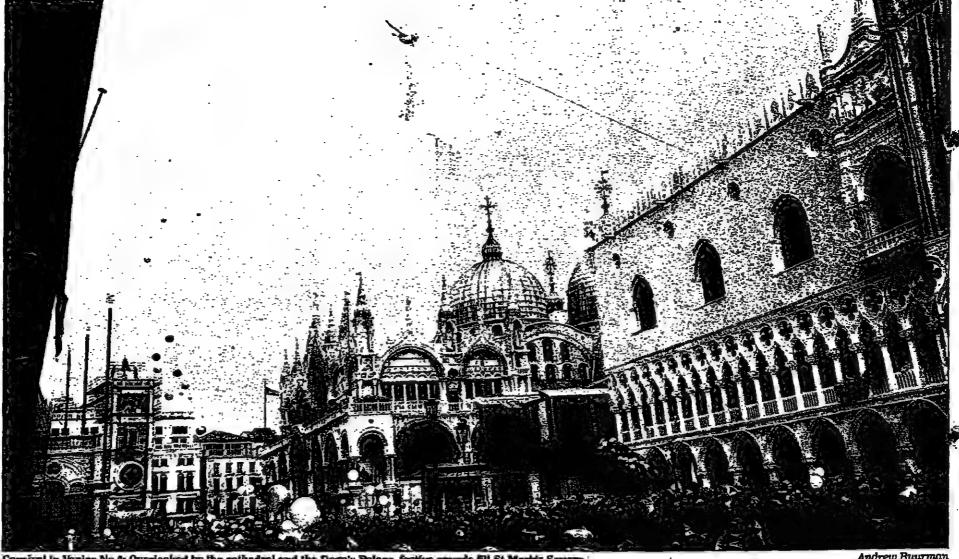
CULTURE



Sorting the men from the boys: Trevor Nunn explains why it takes guts to direct Shakespeare

PLUS Geoffrey Robertson and Darcus Howe on the Lawrence Inquiry

Natasha Walter replies to Germaine Greer



Carnival in Venice No & Overlooked by the cathedral and the Doge's Palace, festive crowde fill St Mark's Square

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk (e-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address). Letters may be edited for length and clarity

Condon 'myopic'

Sir: Sir Paul Condon remains woefully myopic when he clings to the linguistic opportunities posed by the adjective "unwitting", instead of seeing institutional racism as a component part of a

Tony Blair is right when he says we should honestly confront racism. We live in a sophisticated society with sophisticated prejudices. Overt racism of the kind that killed Stephen is all too common in Britain. Covert racism, for which there has been no report, but under claims through the Race Relations Act every year, is

also alarmingly pervasive. Macpherson's findings of institutional racism only confirms what those of us who are black have always known. It is a welcome addition to our national dialogue and to some extent completes the circle. We need now to continue the dialogue that has begun between our diverse communities, if only to ensure that it doesn't take another tragedy to bring this to the public's attention. DAVID LAMMY

Sir: Since Sir Paul Condon has been Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police we have been involved in supporting and advising the families of black people who have died in police custody - Joy Gardner (1993), Shiji Lapite (1994), Brian Douglas (1995), Wayne Douglas, (1995) and Ibrahima

London NW1

Sey (1996). They have been killed or seriously injured by punches, kicks, neck holds, hit over the head by batons, placed in body restraints, had tape put over their mouths, held face down on the floor so they could not breathe and left seriously injured in cells without

medical attention. In January 1999 Roger Sylvester, died after being restrained by eight Metropolitan police officers in Tottenham. Following his death Metropolitan Police spin doctors have put into the public domain partial and

inaccurate information designed to deflect attention from their actions and turn Mr Sylvester into a racist stereotype and blame him for his own death.

Mark in 1'Ca

We have no confidence that the Metropolitan Police have learnt any lessons from these appailing deaths. If confidence is ever to be

restored in the police the Government must also act to address the lack of accountability at all stages in the investigative and disciplinary processes following deaths in police custody that deny bereaved families justice, send a clear not matter and that police crime will never be subject to the full force of the law. **DEBORAH COLES** HELEN SHAW Co-Directors

Sir: With the greatest of respect to the Rev John Thewlis (letter, 26 February) whom I know by reputation as a good and generous man, it has to be pointed out that he always wears his cleric's garb when he is out in the community and I would be very surprised if people did not watch what they were

Inquest, London N4

saying in his presence. I have lived in this area for 13 years, not very far from where Stephen was murdered. I am white and am regularly appalled by what my neighbours think is perfectly acceptable to say.

A great number of the people who live here are disgustingly, sickeningly racist. It is part of the culture. I have heard things said that I could hardly bear to repeat and often from people who preface what they say with "I am not racist but ..." LESLEY DAVIS London SE3

Cash for the arts Sir: One of the "real challenges" facing Peter Hewitt (Right of Reply, 25 February) must be how to maintain the pretence that the Arts Council "is currently cutting its staffing by half".

He must know that the

Arts Council Staffing Proposal of January 1999 suggests that staff should be cut from 255.8 full-time equivalent posts in December 1998 to 181.6 full-

time equivalent posts. That is a reduction of 29 per cent and the final total only 25 less than the staffing level of 206 declared in the accounts for 1996/97!

In November, Arts Council Newstaldus that "the Arts Council's full complement of staff is 322. When plans are finalised, a staff of around 150 is expected". The Staffing Proposal says that "the number of agreed posts in the time equivalent posts". Who agreed to this unprecedented recruiting drive over the past

Mr Hewitt boasts that the Arts Council, "far from taking from the arts, is in fact restoring many millions of pounds to it". The Arts Council News version of that promise was that "net financial savings from restructuring _ should free up as least £2m per year for frontline arts activity".

When set against the 628.5m the arts funding system spent on staff salaries, agency staff, professional fees (consultants) and external assessment (more consultants) in 1997/98, that hardly seems as radical or as generous as Peter Hewitt would like us to believe. CHARLES MORGAN Wotton-under-Edge,

Koestler assault

Sir. The gleeful assault in the press on the now defenceless Arthur Koestler ironically has all the characteristics of the show trials he did so much to expose ("Storm as Raphael defends rapist Koestler", 23 February).

Mr Raphael's argument, in Prospect, is that it would be imbalanced to allow certain alleged sexual acts completely to eclipse Koestler's life work the accusations against Koestler are serious, but they do not negate him. Koestler will long be valued for his

devastating description of the twisted mentality and physical brutality of Soviet communism,

We are all complex being striving to balance conflicting tensions within us, and sometimes we behave badly even those of us who have not undergone the kind of extreme mental suffering that Koestler did.

The Independent has recently mocked America for a tawdry obsession with people's sex lives; what a shame that it now collaborates in the reduction of Arthur Koestler's life and work to a sex scandal. London W11

Sir: So Frederic Raphael claims that Jill Craigie "may have been excited by the risks" of being with Arthur Koestler, who raped herwhen Ms Craigie asserts quite the contrary.

Is Raphael now a spokesperson for raped women? His arrogance seems to know no bounds.

"The abuse of women was (if it is not still) a certificate of virility in many great men. If we are to dispraise famous men, who is to be spared?" The answer, Mr Raphael, is none. Professor JUNE PURVIS School of Social and Historical Studies University of Portsmouth

Nasty pleasures

Sir: Terence Blacker's perceptive "It's brutal, it's selfish, it's sex today' (Review, 23 February) provided a timely analysis of the increasingly obsessive preoccupation by TV drama makers to challenge and cross all the boundaries of sexual behaviour, both heterosexual and homosexual

Channel 4's "Queer as Folk" on 23 February was a case in point. The first of an eight-part drama on the lives and loves of three homosexual men, it starts with a 29-yearold man picking up a boy of 15 itself a criminal offence. What follows has been described as the most graphic sex acenes shown on TV.1 believe that this and several

other current drama series undermine the values that are vital for the health and

strengthening of our society. Sex is a beautiful but fragile gift from God. Its exploitation or trivialisation often leads to emptiness and distillusionment. But that, of course, is rarely admitted and explored. To do so would explode the fantasy. Integrity and truth so easily become expendable.

Terence Blacker is right... somewhere along the line something has changed and the age-old search for pleasure has turned nasty". +JOHN CHELMSFORD Margaretting,

Wanting it all

Sir. Part of the reason for increased depression is that we have increased expectations of hapoiness and seem to have forgotten that sadness, misery even, is a normal part of being human ("Stressed out, blissed out", 25 February). The selfishness promoted

during the 1980s made us more acquisitive, more jealous of those who have, and more likely to feel like failures if we aren't succeeding in having it all. There is more pressure on men to work all hours, to earn and keep on earning. There is more pressure on women to work all hours and earn, either to support their families single-handedly or to ensure that the family income is enough to pay the mortgage - and yet there is widespread job insecurity. Where do children fit in in all this? They don't they are squeezed out. HEIDI BRADSHAW Cambridge

Sir. Deborah Orrasked whether tinkering with brain chemistry would be likely to fix the problems created by a society that promotes stress Surely the point of altering

brain chemistry is to ensure that people are less likely to want to change society when simply taking a pill can ease away all the pain. **JABRAHAMS** Sheffield

IN BRIEF

Sir: The BMA warns that any surgeon amputating a woman's normal breasts for non-therapeutic reasons could be in breach of his ethical duty - even with the woman's consent ("Cancer fear drives woman to have breasts removed",

23 February). oppose (and refuses to comment on the ethics of the non-therapeutic amputation of a boy's normal foreskin - even without the child's consent. ROGER SPENCE

Sir: H J Hall asks where the English language is going Getter, 25 February) when "maximum weight" is replaced with "maximum technicai permissible laden mass". To put it simply, "it's the physics, stupid". Mass is the correct term for what is colloquially known as weight; the additional words act to define the state more exactly. SNTRAVIS Sale, Greater Manchester

Sir: Robert Fisk claims that Turkey and Israel are sharing information against Iraq, Iran and Syria ("Jerusalem draws in the Turks to spy on its foes". 24 February). I do not know if that is true, but I do think that it is a good thing and anyone in his right mind should support it.

After all, those three countries are all on the US list of countries supporting terrorism. KERIM URAS London SW15

Sir: Your article "My doctors are too informal" (Dilemmas, 25 February) reminded me of an elderly parishioner in a friend's parish who much objected to being addressed by the new (and eager-to-befriendly) vicar as anything but "Mrs".

She said: "I spent years in service being told, 'Vera, do this' or 'Vera, do that', and it's nice to have some respect at THE REV G J WRAYFORD Minehead, Somerset

The dinner party

Continued from front page of secular religion. Susie: That's going too far. It's more a question of containing. Tim: Containing what? Susie: All sorts of things - passion,

conflict, difficulties. Tim: Doesn't it also have an element of Brix: It's happy bacteria. seeking spiritual elevation? Susie: No, I don't think so. I think it's a

response to distress. Brix: I take so many food supplements: echinacea to keep my immune system happy; I take giant multivitamins and minerals and stuff, sometimes with added ginseng; and I take zinc in the morning and evening, if I remember. I also take chlorella, a seaweed extract.

Jane: Oh yeah, I take that. Brix: And I take St John's wort as a natural antidepressant, then I take acidophilus. Tim: Acidophilus?

Tim: As opposed to miserable bacteria? Brix: It's about keeping your system happy if you eat the wrong thing.

Susie: If you were eating a very limited diet, it's not such a terrible thing to be ingesting all those supplements, but why aren't you ingesting them as food?

Tim: Jane, do you do supplements? Jane: I do take chlorella. It's an alga, it's like soirulina. Brix: I also have chromium drops. Tim: What's that all about? Jane: Chromium is the only one that

Tim: This sounds like total rubbish.

Jane: I'm sure it is rubbish... Chromi-terrible. But I take it every day. um polymate is supposed to boost your

Brix: It also stops craving for starch. Susie: What you mean is, it binds with the starch molecules that are in there

Jane: There was this natural slimming pill in the States that loads of people lost lots of weight with, and then it proved to produce heart attacks. Suddenly peo-ple were dropping like flies, and they

think food affects their mood.

Jane: Every man I've ever known is in banned it. I'm pretty sure chromium is not that great. I know that when I've taken too much, I get very speedy. When I've taken it without food, I feel

Tim: Food obsession also acts as a kind

Jane: It's a bonding.
Susie: It's a way of conversing about other things. Instead of saying "I feel terrible", or "Get a grip", you say, "you should take chromium"...

Tim: I don't know any men who take food supplements. I don't know any men who a foul mood when they're hungry. Tim: Sure. But this is a whole culture we're talking about. There's also this Jame: You end up using every pan in your kind of underground-knowledge aspect. house

Have you ever been given a secret diet smuggled out of a hospital? Brix: Yes.

Jane: Yes, the three-day hot dog, icecream, bestroot one. Brix: There's the heart-attack one. Jane: Is that the vegetable soup? Brisc Yes! How many times did I do that? Jane: No I couldn't, I couldn't ... Time You know about this then? Brbc Definitely I did it for a week Shocking - it's gross. You make a soup, you make a cauldron, it's cabbage and car-

rots and -

Brix: I have a giant vat. This is the fat-Jane: The idea is, the more you eat the

more you lose. Brix: You have to stuff your face with vegetables - like, you're gagging. This one guarantees losing between 10 and

17 pounds m a week! Susie: Anyone who's ever been on one

of these crazy diets knows that you may lose some but then, the week after, you put it back on again and more. Tim: All the evidence suggests that

dieting simply does not work. That everyone puts it back on.

Jane: It doesn't work. We all know that. Of course it doesn't work. Tim: Then, why the hell? why don't ...?

Jane: We're not dieting. We have specific eating habits. We just have a way of... Susle: You have food-management

procedures? Jane and Brix: Yeah, exactly.

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Britain's small theatres deserve better than this

THEY MOAN that they are short of money; the Government says that they have far more funds available than their predecessors; and the employees find themselves overworked, underfunded and undervalued.

What are we talking of here: teachers? nurses? firemen perhaps? No, in this case the latest complainants are the theatres. It is an indication of the ambivalent attitude the English (not the Scots or the Welsh or the Irish, it should be noted) have to the arts that the complaints, in these pages, of so distinguished a director as Sir Peter Hall and the host of small theatre directors who have backed him are immediately dismissed, in the words of Lord Bragg in The Independent yesterday, as "all but scandalous".

When our actors, scriptwriters and directors win Hollywood awards, they are feted as national treasures. When they demand more money for their trade, they are described as "whingeing luvvies". Only last month, one of the opera world's most highly regarded opera directors was reduced to apologising for stating that state subsidy had a role to play in nurturing public art.

State subsidy, indeed, is not a productive form of activity for governments, certainly not as developed under previous Labour governments, before our post-Thatcherite New Labour. Too often it has been used to prop up ailing industries and, more especially, artificially to increase employment in sensitive parliamentary constituencies. As a means of bucking the market trend,

-But the theatre is only an industry in the most partial sense - and a most successful British one, it should be said, given the earnings that it generates in tourism. It is also a cultural part of life, a means of enriching lives and commenting upon them. In that sense it is not a business, but part of education. And a part that is ever more desperately needed as the Government narrows its definition of formal education to the three Rs and downgrades art. This Government knows that. Indeed Labour came in with the deliberately cultivated image, and a deliberately cultivated group of supporters from the arts, of being art-friendly. And - its critics should accept this - it has made more state funds available than ever before. Not only has the overall Arts Council grant gone up - an increase of £125m in three years - but the money being made available through the lottery, now mercifully freed from its concentration on buildings rather than people, has added tens of millions more.

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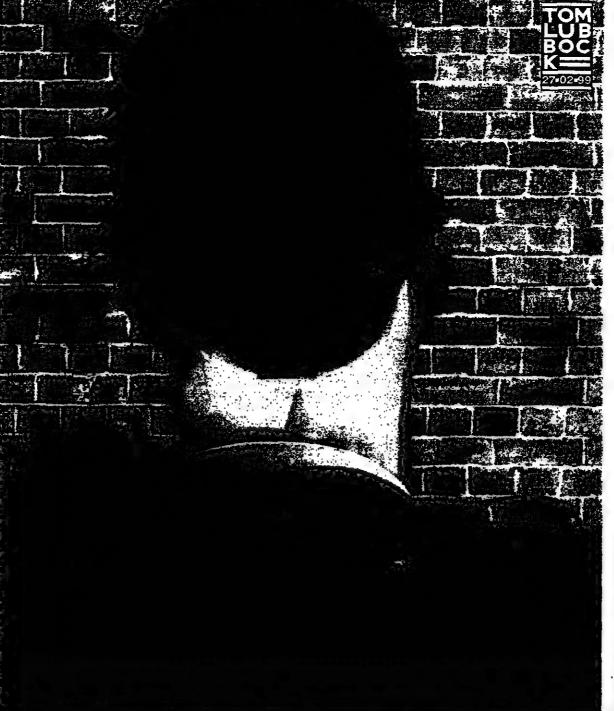
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Yet speak to any theatre manager, or talk privately to almost any of the great and the good among directors. and you will get the same story: of theatres all over the country, who have struggled valiantly for years, finally going under as their applications for further grants are turned down. Whenever there is a gap between anecdotal complaint on the ground and government denial that there is anything wrong, it is a safe bet that the anecdotal evidence tells the true story. Whatever the arguments about the size of the total pot available, there's clearly a serious problem about funding the number of small organisations seeking assistance. Far from receiving more money, the majority of them have received no increase in funding at all - an effective cut in real terms. The fact that the Arts Council can't see it confirms what many in the theatre business suspect. In the end, the



Council wants to concentrate its funds on the big, prestigious companies and is content to throw the rest to the less-than-gentle mercies of the regional arts-funding structure that is to be established.

That is wrong in strategy, and wrong in practice. The great companies should have help, but not at the expense of the small. In the arts more than any other field, a thousand flowers should be encouraged to bloom. It is the small who go to schools and tour their areas. And it is the local theatres who experiment.

It is also these companies that will suffer most the move being encouraged from European-style state subsidy to American-style corporate and individual support. Corporate sponsors rarely favour the unknown, still less the daring. Private sponsorship in Britain has not made up for state grants and, in the case of most theatres, is never likely to do so. Given that, we have to ask whether the Arts Council is any longer the right

organisation to formulate strategy and assess grants. Founded originally as a means of separating politics from the arts, and set up as a spokesman for the arts business, it has seemed unable to cope with the job of serving the arts on the one hand, and a radical new government policy stressing access and education on the other. More, its status as an arm's-length quango, which might have been its strength, is now its weakness. It has little accountability in public, makes its decisions in secret and seems to be subject to no questioning in its planning. Its present theatre policy is the product not of a strategy but of a curious amalgam of obsession with efficiency, coupled with last-minute concessions to big companies with public clout, such as the RSC.

Sir Peter Hall's alternative Arts Council may be wishful thinking. But he is surely right that the curtain should come down on the Arts Council. Time to

No case for more aid for Longbridge

WE DO not have to look very far for an example of the worst way to spend taxpayers' money, one that has yielded the poorest return in the history of public expenditure. It is a long-running drama, set in an old factory haunted by the accumulated spirits of past motor magnates, defunct politicians and ugly cars. It has claimed many. It may be about to claim another. The spirit of Labour governments past is stalking Stephen Byers, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

He is thinking of paying BMW, the owner of Rover, a subsidy of perhaps £100m to keep the Longbridge works in Birmingham open and "save" jobs. In return, BMW will revamp the facility and develop new models, and productivity will improve.

It sounds plausible enough. But only for those with memories as short as a Mini. Those with a better sense of economic history will recall the formation in 1968 of the proud British Leyland Motor Corporation (ancestor of today's Rover Group), a combine that was designed to take on the world's car giants. A modest subsidy was provided, to assist the reconstruction. Seven years later the firm was bust and in state ownership. In the Seventies and Eighties managements blackmailed governments of both parties into paying huge amounts of aid. Sir Michael Edwardes even managed to squeeze a billion or two out

The same arguments were used over and over again: vast damage to the regional economy and a devastating effect on the balance of trade. Ministers always caved in and asked for "improvements in productivity" in return, as Mr Byers, ominously, did in Parliament last week. A rough estimate of the total cost of the state's operating subsidies plus regional aid grants plus the "sweeteners" paid to offload the firm into the private sector would top £20bn at today's prices - funds that could have been put into education or left in the pockets of more successful firms.

And what did the taxpayers get for their money? Generation after generation of "make-or-break" models that were, mostly, indifferently designed and made, and commanded a smaller and smaller share of the market at home and abroad. British Leyland started with 40 per cent of the home market; today Rover has about 6 per cent. Co-operation with Honda and BMW failed to solve the group's fundamental problems and, in particular, the volume side of the business, centred on Longbridge.

When so much effort and so much money have been poured in over three decades, and with so little success, it is time to think more radically.

The hard truth is that the world is awash with car plants. The entire US auto industry could be shut down and there would still be too much capacity. It is a hard truth and it implies the hardest of choices for Mr Byers.

He should be the first minister in decades to say "no" to the threats. He may find that the ghosts haunting Longbridge are not so frightening. He may find that calling BMW's bluff will not, in fact, result in total closure. He may even find that a stronger declaration in favour of ing the euro might have as powerful an effect as a large cheque signed by the Paymaster General.

However, if Longbridge does shrink or close, there are many small British firms involved in components and design which are growing. These firms don't seek or need subsidies. They have the surest chance of survival. Mr Byers should design New Labour's policies for them, and exorcise those ghosts.

The man of peace known as the Reverend Ian Paisley

IVE BEEN watching the Reverend Ian Paisley for more than 20 years. It has been impossible not to: he is the biggest personality in Northern Ireland and generally the most politically destructive. He has vanquished many opponents and helped bring down many attempted settlements. If ever they gave out a lifetime achievement award for wrecking, it's a fair bet that he would be proudly placing it on his wellappointed east Belfast mantelpiece.

At first sight his Democratic Unionist Party is an unchanging group of diehards for whom politics is simply a way of fighting a religious war by other means, the party of straightforward anti-Catholicism and anti-Nationalism. But in fact it has undergone a sea change to become one of the most fascinating elements in the Belfast political equation and, potentially one of the most crucial. Mr Pais-ley has led the opposition to the Good Friday accord, fighting last year's referendum campaign on an uncom-promising "smash the Good Friday agreement" ticket.

In the assembly chamber, where his party holds 20 of the 108 seats, DUP members engage in hand-to-hand rhetoric, sometimes with Sinn Fein but most often with David Trimble's proagreement Ulster Unionists. Mr Paisley routinely attacks Mr Trimble's treachery and betrayal".

Yet these assembly sessions can give a misleading impression of the underlying state of what is really going on politically, and of the health of the peace process. Unionism is certainly divided, as was shown in last week's vote when Unionist members voted 29 for and 29 against an impor- watched with trepidation the rise of tant motion. But, with hardly an Angle-Irishry.

exception, unionist members adore the Stormont assembly. Unionist member's of all factions are to be seen striding officiously through its marbled and gilded corridors, Hansards and sheaves of important-looking papers tucked under their arms.

Some of the more senior sweep ostentatiously through the corridors trailing aides, officials, press officers and bodyguards, a retinue designed to convey that they are people of influence and consequence. Many of the 108 members are, in other words, revelling in the trappings of power.

John Hume and the SDLP have been working towards something like this for many years, knowing in their bones that only an institution that could command cross-community support has any chance of taking root. This new Stormont is the natural result of their belief, held over the decades, that nationalist and Unionist must share power.

Sinn Fein came to the idea much later, having first had to swallow the concept of going into a building that, for decades, they had regarded as a symbol of Protestant supremacy and repression. Although they are among the least affected by the marble and the gilt, they still see it all as a valuable vehicle for pursuing their goals.

David Trimble's Unionists have settled in wonderfully, looking for-ward to the day when Westminster devolves real power to the new institution. The last quarter of a century has not been easy for Unionists as they have watched power slip away from their tradition, seen influence gained by John Hume and Gerry Adams and



DAVID MCKITTRICK The old warhorse is

preparing for government. His men are among those who love Stormont most

chance to get a Unionist handle on things, an opportunity to get back into the game, an opening to regain some control of their own destiny. While it is not the ideal system for them, it nonetheless offers them access to the levers of power.

And the DUP, which fought so hard against all this, will also get a share of that power, for the arithmetical formula for doling out executive seats dictates that the party will have two places on the executive. Mr Paisley may be against the whole thing in principle, but in practice he will certainly take those seats.

The old warhorse is, in other words, preparing for government. In the meantime it is obvious that his men are among those who love Stormont most, who have the highest spring in their step as they pass proudly through its portals. They most love its

vant to lose it. "They treat this place

like a country club," said one opponent. Some will accuse the old man of hypocrisy in all this; others will figure that he has little choice but to go along with the new realpolitik imposed by the Good Friday agreement, a document whose craft and subtlety is gradually

The Paisleyite desire to stay in the assembly and to get into government is going to be of crucial political importance, for it shows the difference between appearance and reality. However things may seem on the surface, David Trimble is not struggling to preserve the assembly from Paisley's attempts to destroy it; rather, both want to keep it going.

Furthermore, both unionist leaders probably believe that at some stage in the next few months the issue of arms decommissioning will be resolved one way or another, and that Sinn Fein will then take its seats in the executive. This will not deter Mr Paisley from taking his seats; he put up a great fight against the whole thing, but now he is prepared to lie back and think of Ulster.

Paislevism has always reflected a schizophrenia within Unionism. At one level it is authoritarian and unforgiving of dissidents, as seen in its emphasis on law and order and maximum punishment for those who break the rules. On another level it embodies the politics of dissent, as is demonstrated by all those Paisleyite protests over the years.

Although these two instincts have often collided, the new executive will provide a cabinet that his men can likely than collapse. Welcome to the

Paisleyite heaven.

Last year's referendum on the Good Friday agreement recorded a 71 per cent endorsement of the accord. which meant that just over half of the Unionists approved of it. Although some have since argued that some Unionist support has ebbed away, it is in fact more likely that tacit acceptance of the agreement has increased.

At the political level, this is partly because the lure of office and status is so strong; at grass-roots level it is largely due to the time-honoured Presbyterian instinct to accept the will of the majority. But there is also something deeper

going on here. Whatever temptations were on offer, Paisley and his people would not be in such a participatory mood if they really believed that this agreement was trundling them inexorably towards a united Ireland.

There are many things he and his supporters would want to see changed in the Good Friday agreement; their attempts to alter it will probably form much of the stuff of politics in the years ahead. The bottom line, though, is that they do not fear the accord and are not in the business of wrecking it. The net effect is a strong Protestant consensus that the assembly should survive.

None of this means that the decommissioning deadlock will easily be resolved, and none of it provides a castiron guarantee that the peace process will remain on track. But it does mean that, despite all past setbacks and future hurdles, there are powerful and not always obvious factors that mean that survival is much more simultaneously join and denounce. peace process, Mr Paisley.

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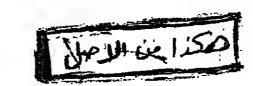
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The Independent 27 February 1999

MONITOR

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ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

The Lawrence report • Britain and the euro • 'Queer as Folk' • Kosovo peace talks • The trial of Ocalan

BRITAIN AND THE EURO

Views on Tony Blair's announcement of the 'changeover' plan should Britain decide to join the euro

THE SUN

WHAT PRICE the euro? Too high at MR BLAIR is not a European fanatic £10bn, say small and medium businesses. They don't want to pay that to make computers euro-compliant when we may never join. These are firms creating jobs and we don't want them squeezed out by "mightbe" expenses. Not many trade direct with Europe. So who will be delighted with Tony Blair's growing devotion to the euro? Only giant multinationals who are shedding jobs and hope trading in euros cuts

Mr Blair will talk tough about tax and welfare opt-outs, History tells a different story. Whatever Europe wants, Europe gets... eventually.

DAILY RECORD

HE DIDN'T sav Yes and he didn't say No. Tony Blair said Maybe. He really meant it to sound like Probably. But everyone is certain he said Definitely. Confused? Aren't we all? The Prime Minister is a gambler His arguments would seem to imply Staking his euros on Britain's entry into the common currency could be his most dangerous political punt of all. He is putting his own personal charisma and voter-appeal on the line by asking the still-sceptical British electorate to follow blm into Europe and is betting the Government's future by turning the next general election into a single-issue campaign - Europe.

THE TIMES

THE PM has fired the starting gun for his attempt to take Britain into monetary union. The euro, he says, is "a reality"; Britain must prepare to be part of it. Mr Blair has now given the lobbyists for EMU the signal they have long demanded, starting a process designed to convince voters that entry is a foregone

Inevitability is one of the most seductive mantras of European politics. To go with the flow is the greatest desire of European politiclans. To be left out of a seemingly inevitable European unification is al-dinosaurs of nationalism. In any most the greatest fear of this mod- event, it is welcome that today he is ern British Prime Minister.

THE MIRROR

He wants only one thing - to do what is best for Britain, "The national interest will always come first." he said vesterday. But it is not in the national interest to refuse to have anything to do with the euro. Or to ignore the preparations needed before it can be introduced. The final say will be with the people in a ref-

But Mr Blair would be failing in his duty if he did not insist that we got ready for the single currency. It will be up to the people to decide this country's destiny. The Prime Minister is simply pointing them in the right direction.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

IN HIS long statement to the Commons, Tony Blair failed to come up with a single good reason why such a plan to take us into the single currency is necessary at this stage. that, at the moment, Europe is unfit for us. Logic, however, has never been Mr Blair's strongest suit. What concerns him is how to swing a referendum that could make or break his premiership. Mr Blair is hoping to edge us, unresisting, in the direction of the euro until it is too late to turn back. It is not too early to

EVENING STANDARD

ONCE THE storm has subsided after the words from the Prime Minister, it will be recognised that he has merely said openly what he has always been known to believe in private. The timing of a British move remains uncertain and it is still much too early to be sure how the euro's fortunes will progress. Yet there are already signs of growing alarm in the City about the future

of British business outside the euro. If this sentiment grows, it will greatly assist Mr Blair. He will be able to proclaim that he is the chambion of reali making plain his aspirations.

The conscience of a nation

DAILY MAIL

THE DANGER is that Sir William, in his determination to root out racism, may be making the politically correct mistakes which the Americans are now trying to undo. He seems to have forgotten that Britain remains a fundamentally decent country. Welcome though much of the report may be, it would do no service to Stephen's memory if Britain fell into the grip of racial McCarthyism. That would be the ultimate triumph for the smirking savages who, let it never be forgotten, murdered this decent young man and are still walking free in the streets of London.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

BY SAYING that all white-dominated public institutions are likely to be racist, Straw has played into the hands of those who wish to undermine our respect for our own society. It encourages ethnic minorities to cultivate a greater sense of grievance and breeds in the white majority a resentment that it is considered guilty unless proved

Reports such as these are supposed to heal wounds. This one is likely to open new ones. How far we have come from the right source of outrage in this - the fact that an innocent young man was murdered and his killers never caught.

THE MIRROR

THE REPORT is not just about the police, though. It is a challenge to us all. To get rid of racism in our workplaces, communities and homes. Until there is no prejudice in the minds of decent people, we will not stop the sickness that led to the butchery of Stephen Lawrence.

THE TIMES

THE POLICE'S failings are not best understood when viewed solely through the prism of race. Society as a whole has been ill-served by the police service's failure to reform its practices. Recruitment from ethnic minorities has been woeful, but it talented graduates from every background interest group with a grievance.



THE LAWRENCE REPORT

Verdicts on the publication of Sir William Macpherson's report into the racist murder of Stephen Lawrence

has been remarkably poor. The police have failed to reflect a changing society. It

should never be forgotten that this inquiry was made necessary by the police's failure to apprehend murderous criminals. Reform must concentrate on enhancing the operational effectiveness of the police

SIR PAUL has a long and public record of fighting racism within his force, and also his courage in tackling police corruption - often in the face of considerable hostility from his own officers. His resignation ness about it. But if he is to stay, he must police services are run."

THE GUARDIAN

surely realise that yesterday's report was a beginning, not an end. In the 10 months he has left, he has much to prove. All Macpherson's work will have been wasted unless it inspires efforts by the police to win the confidence of the black community which it patently lacks at the moment. That fight should start today and, yes, the buck really does stop with Sir Paul.

THE EXPRESS

ONLY ONCE we all accept responsibility will change be achieved. This is not to excuse the police. Overtly corrupt and racist officers must be sacked. Their forces know who they are. Unwitting racism needs rooting out and undermining, through education and penalties, too, if necessary. And then the police must use existing race laws - and they are tough to fulfil their duty to protect ethnic minorities as well as white people.

THE WEST MIDLANDS EXPRESS & STAR

SOCIETY AS a whole is not to blame for the Lawrence tragedy. The transformation of Britain into a multicultural society has been one of the unsung successes of our

Sadly there are a few race-hate gangs and a few racist or incompetent police officers. It was Stephen Lawrence's tragedy to fall among both.

The best memorial to Stephen Lawrence would be a freer and more tolerant society, not a sweeping away of ancient liberties. We have enough problems with bent police without recruiting Thought Police.

FINANCIAL TIMES

OVERALL, THE Macpherson report has created an opportunity for a major over-haul of an institution where a combination of poor management and complacency has allowed racism and corruption to persist. The duty of a government that declares itself "modernising" Is to move beyond the damning specifics of this report and

QUEER AS FOLK

Reviews of the controversial new Channel 4 drama series centred around the lives of three homosexual men

wisdom and self-respect. It's

hell-bent on destruction.

THE TIMES

LIANHE ZAOBAO

Singapore

(Lynda Lee Potter)

THE PINK PAPER

WHATS UNEXPECTED about the programme is the sheer strength of the writing, the depth of the characters, the fact that Queer as Folk shows gay men caught with their trousers down - a warts-and-all gay drama with the emphasis firmly on the drama. Shocking? Yes, but shocking because it's normal, everyday. Being gay is not the drama here, it's the starting-point. And it's about time that was shown on the box. (Toby Sawyer)

DAILY MAIL

QUEER AS FOLK proves that we IF IT didn't have the novelty of need censorship. Year by year, the boundaries of what is deemed permissible are pushed wider and wider apart. Certainly we shouldn't be at liberty to watch naked actors having relentless homosexual sex. Any nation which allows this without any voices raised in dissent is lacking in both in many viewers' mouths.

PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS



adults of the opposite sex. It aptime record. (Tony Purnell)

EVENING STANDARD

gay sex, would anyone have made a fuss about it? Or got excited about it in a positive way, rather than because of its depiction of under-age man-boy sex? Its cynicism could just be at long last, recognise thema stab at chic metropolitan knowingness, but you can know it? I do hope so. (Allison imagine it leaving a nasty taste

THE MIRROR

CALL ME old-fashioned but I think sex is best carried out in private between two consulting pears to be something of a rarity these days. On television, people are at it all over the place with all sorts. If the opening episode of Queer as Folk was anything to go by, the bare bum count is heading for an all-

SMART, FUNNY, beautifully acted and squelchingly explicit, this drama leaves us in no doubt as to what gay men do to each other. What it may do, though, is present a humane, challenging picture of a section of our society in which they may, selves without wincing. Is this the end of television as we

THE VIEWS OF THE WORLD

DAILY STAR

Lebanon

Kosovan talks in Rambouillet

KOSOVO PEACE TALKS

The world press considers the outcome of the

CHINA DAILY

FOR PEACE-LOVING people. the Rambouillet deal has not defused the possibility of war in the long-standing tinder-box. We urge the parties concerned to show genuine sincerity when striving for a peaceful political resolution of the crisis. A peaceful, just and reasonable resolution to the Kosovo crisis relies eventually on the parties involved in Yugoslavia.

DAWN Pakistan

THE SITUATION is quite critical now. All the parties involved in the Balkans have failed to put up a united front. The contact group will hopefully succeed in bringing Milosevic to see reason and agree to the stationing of a peace force in Kosovo. This will be for an interim period and, in the which prevail, this move can hardly be interpreted as an

THE ECONOMIST

infringement of Serbian overeignty.

NATIONAL POST Canada

BY BLOCKING the Kosovar delegation from accepting a reasonable settlement which would have forced the Serbs on to the defensive, the KLA has given Milosevic room to manoeuvre. He now has until the talks reconvene to eradicate the KLA in order to present a fait accompli to Nato: no KLA, no Kosovo problem, no

LE MONDE

negotiations.

France RAMBOUILLET WASN'T a failure. It's a beginning. But time is of the essence. Back in the Balkans, fighting has recommenced. We know only too well extraordinary circumstances the price a civilian population pays when at the mercy of the

THE TRIAL OF OCALAN

Opinion on the arrest and forthcoming trial of the Kurdish Workers Party leader, Abdullah Ocalan

MILLIYET Turkey

EUROPEANS, IN a single voice,

have launched a campaign

against the Turkish justice sys-

tem that will try Ocalan, de-manding a "fair trial". In the EU Foreign Ministers' statement there was no reference to the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK). It denounced terrorism but did not mention how Greece has supported terrorism. On the other hand, it made recommendations as to how Ocalan should be tried and stressed the need for a "political solution". Ankara originally expected the EU's attitude to be different. Since the EU Foreign Ministers' Council issued its statement, Ankara has raised its voice against its European friends.

WASHINGTON POST

THE EARLY accounts of Mr Ocalan in captivity have turned

good to know that the citizens of Greece were making a similar demand on their own government.

up the heat under Greek-

Turkish relations. The Turks

are angry, but not out of line, in

demanding that Athens answer

to the European Union for any

violation of Greece's counter-

terrorist obligations. It would be

TURKISH DAILY NEWS

EVERYTHING IN connection with Ocalan should be carried out in the open within the limits of providing proper security for him, so that we do not give the PKK and its foreign sympathisers any grist for the pro-paganda mill. That is the only way to overcome the inevitable disinformation campaign that the PKK has already initiated. We should not give the impression that the legal process is a military affair, but that it is the civilian administration that

MISCELLANEOUS Stories from around the world

THE NORWAY POST

WE'VE EXPERIENCED our first Viagra-related death in Norway. A Norwegian man aged 65 died after using the medication. The man died suddenly of heart

failure and hadn't been using

any other medication. He had received Viagra from his general practitioner, and is believed to have followed the safety instructions. Apparently approximately 20 out of 1 million Viagra-free acts of intercourse end in death anyway.

maintains that "Viagra enables has not done for a long time That is why we have to consider all the circumstances in a case like this, before we make a

parallel between the death and [the taking of] Viagra."

will try him and prosecute him.

THE STRAITS TIMES Singapore

A WEBSITE set up by the government to encourage Malaysians to express love for their country has been used by critics to insult national leaders. Those who wrote in used fictitious names. The website was meant to allow Malaysians to express love for the country So the health department However, a large percentage of those who expressed feelings a man to do something that he used vulgar words. When asked how much longer the website would be maintained a minister quipped: "Until they have fin-ished cursing."

RESEARCH BY SALLY CHATTERTON

QUOTES OF THE WEEK



"I was mistaken for a prostitute once in the last war. When a GI asked me what I charged, I said, Well, dear, what do your mother and sisters normally ask for?" Dame Thora Hird, actress (above)

"I am told there is a new, tough generation known phonetically as Bananas meaning Build Absolutely Nothing Anywhere Near Anything." The Prince of Wales

"I am a rebel against strictness and also against logic." Ken Dodd, comedian

"'Axed' is a negative word. This is a positive, forward

move.' The spokesperson for the soon to be discontinued 'Noel's House Party

"The best way to end a canteen culture is to spend more time outside the canteen." Chris Mullin Labour MP

"I am considered attractive by some people and I've been completely ignored by others, so I know that I am somewhere in the middle." Colin Firth, actor

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I ask you, is Rottweiling really a career?

British Fashion Week - we've just had it - would have left me unmoved. I've pretty much given up fashion. The last designer garment I bought was not a success. How can I describe it? Quite easily, in fact; it's a knee-length, V-necked, dark grey tubular cardigan, austere to the point of astringency save in one respect. Instead of cuffs it has long, shaggy, drooping woollen tendrils variously knotted, looped and frayed, sprouting at each wrist. "An amusing little detail, typical of this particular designer," said the shop assistant knowingly as she disentangled one of my fronds from her earring with a bitter expression.

And amusing they probably are when I make expansive Gallic gestures and my woolly toggles bounce waywardly at will. But they're a

they are attracted like slugs to lettuce. Most of my dinner ends up in my sleeves. Once, in a restaurant, signalling to the waiter for another bottle of wine. I counted linguini, two peas, half an olive and a toothpick embedded most unamusingly in my cuff.

But back to fashion week which this year did not pass unnoticed because, like it or not. I have become unwittingly involved in the glossy world of supermodels. Throw another log on the fire, if you like; this is a long story. I have this friend called Melissa who, when all my other friends were carving out important careers in the media, the City and Tupperware, started her own model agency, called Take Two, which the rest of us, working



SUE ARNOLD

My daughter's been trained to hang around playgrounds looking for the future Kate Moss

for Thompson Regional Newspapers, Coopers & Lybrand and Tupperware, thought terribly

Melissa for lunch, you might easily bump into Jade Jagger on the

Working for Take Two in school bolidays was the dream of my three daughters, especially the youngest who, despite perfectly respectable grades in A-level theology, classical civilisation and English literature, said she would rather be a booker at Melissa's than go to university. A booker? It sounded vaguely erudite. Maybe you needed three A-levels to be a booker Had I had the opportunity to sit down and discuss my daughter's future at length with Melissa, things might have been different; but alas, Melissa was never around. Trendy Take Two had metamorphosed into the far more serious and forbidding Take Two Manage-

ways in Paris, Milan or New York signing up new models and staying in impossibly trendy hotels with black walls, no lights and rude staff. I know because she once recommended one of them to me in New York and I hear the scars on

my chins and the bruises on my

amour propre to this day. What I did learn from the fledgeling booker was that you don't get to book overnight. You have to be trained. First, you have to learn to scout. This, as far as I can make out, entails hanging around school play-grounds at half past three looking for the future Kate Moss. The goods, as we all know, are getting younger. In the old days, Melissa would sign up Welsh nannies and Polish au pair girls she'd spotted

charges in Battersea Park, but these days, when girls peak at 13 and are over the hill by 18, you have to get in there quick.

By the end of last summer my daughter was a fully trained booker, which meant sitting round a table with very young, strangely dressed people, shouting into the telephone about options, go-sees, castings and outs. Stranger still were the models themselves: wasted and never, to my mind, wearing enough warm clothes. "They've got attitude, that's what

counts," explained Melissa. There were the usual crises last week. Three models got food poisoning at a fast-food noodle bar in Soho and couldn't make the knitwear show at the Natural History Museum, "Mum, Melissa is sending me to Milan next week to top girl at the Italian fashion shows. Everybody wants her. She was on the cover of The Face, and Mario Testino says she's the face of '99. The got to stop people trying to stea

her from our agency."

How? And who's Mario Testino anyway? "Why don't you go over to Milan for the day and see how it all works," suggested Melissa. "You'd be very proud of your daughter. She's a regular Rottweller."

But is Rottweiling really a career? Something inside me still wishes she were studying Jane Austin at Warwick University under the beady eyes of Professor Germaine Greer, who, I bet you anything, was not at the knitwear collection at the Natural History Museum. I wonder if it featured any sing-and-lettuce cardigans.

THE SATURDAY PROFILE

ANNA WINTOUR, EDITOR OF AMERICAN 'VOGUE'

The lion in Wintour

IMAGINE THIS scene. You work for American Vogue. You are not important, but you want to be at some point. One day you return to the Condé Nast building on Madison Avenue. You've been out and about, interviewing, and are lugging loads of papers. You enter the lift and press floor 13. It is your unlucky day.

Someone very slim and beautiful gets into the lift. She is Anna Wintour She is your editor - or editor-in-chief to be precise, which, in fact, she prides herself in being. Nor is she just any old editor-in-chief but the most powerful woman in the entire world of fashion. She is also friends - yes, friends - with the likes of Hillary Clinton. Even the company chairman, Si Newhouse, can only gush. "Anna Wintour is the greatest Vogue editor of them all," he says. Suddenly, you realise that you are about to be stuck in the lift for 13 floors with an icon who also happens to be your boss.

She is wearing red shoes. At this moment you drop all your papers. You bend down to collect them, ferreting round the flery Manolo Blahnik stilettos. The shoes do not move. The 13th floor arrives and you hear a voice from on high. "Oh do get your act together," it says. And then, in a flash she's gone.

There are many reasons why everyone makes such a fuss about Anna Wintour. She is a Brit who has made it big in America. She is powerful, smart, elegant. Her magazine makes a fortune, her approval is courted by designers big and small. When she throws a party - as she did last week in London – the fashionistas arrive as flamboyantly as possible (Concorde, Eurostar or, at a pinch, boring old limo). But what makes her special is none of the above. What makes her special is the way Anna Wintour can make a drama out of almost anything - even a ride in a lift.

Her sense of theatre is acute and, unlike so many in her business, she doesn't overdo it. When a fur activist known as Racoon Girl threw a frozen animal on to her plate when she was junching at the Four Seasons, Ms Wintour merely covered the furry corpse with a papkin and called for coffee. This tendency towards the dramatic marks most things in her public life her appearance, her career, her fashion. No scene is too small to play well. Most people would have moved at least one stiletto in that lift. Not Anna. And her exit was all the better for it.

She likes exits and entrances. There have been plenty of those over the last week, after she jetted in for London Fashion Week (for the first time in years) and there will be plenty more in the weeks to come in Milan and Paris. Her entrances at these shows are famously and almost

She hates to waste time. "I don't like to make people wait," she says. Nor does she like to be kept waiting. So what she likes to do is ring the designer to find out the real start time of a show, and then arrive accordingly. She may change into that particular designer's clothes en route in the limo. By the time she takes her front-row seat, usually accompanied by an entourage of at least two underlings and a personal PR, everyone is looking at her.

But who is she looking at in turn? No one knows, and this is part of her own personal theatre. Her dark glasses are Jackie O-esque and she wears them indoors as well as out. Over the years she has made many excuses for this: bright lights, shyness, habit. But many people think that it is simply an affectation. Anna Wintour is sensitive to press comment (she hated the nickname Nuclear Wintour) and has made a real effort to give interviews with naked

LIFE STORY

Beginnings: Born on 3 November 1949. Father is Charles Wintour." journalist and former editor. Entire family is academic, Anna being the honourable exception. Education: Queen's College School, London; North London Career: Fashion editor, Harpers & Queen, London; Harper's Bazaar, New York; Viva; Savvy US Vogue (1983-6), editor-in-chief, British Vogue, editor, US House and Garden, editor, US Vogue (1988-) Trademarks: Genetically glamorous. Addicted to sunglasses, bobbed hair, spindly heels. Blackest moment: in 1990 she declared black to be a non-colour and remains a true non-believer. Furriest moment: Two years ago she told her readers she had a confession to make. "I wear fur. I also eat juicy steaks." The animal activists went nuclear, attacking her with fake blood and at least one dead raccoon. What fashion victims say: "What does she think we are, sheep?"

eyes. It is a painful sight. When I interviewed her a few years ago, she spent the entire time clutching a monster pair of Chanel sunglasses. She fiddled and fiddled. Several times they almost made it to her nose, only to be whipped back down to her teeny tiny lap. "It probably means something very dramatic, like that I'm hiding from the world behind them or something,"

What people who know her say:

"She's so powerful that you fear for

her. All gods can be pulled down."

What she says: "You have to be

true to what you are."

she said. Yes, or something. We are fascinated by these sunglasses, just as we are by her thinness. I mean, the woman is said to wear size 4 trousers. The Daily Telegraph once described her as a fabulously glamorous insect. Last week

like watching kitchen scissors at work. Not many shoulder blades can say the same.

She is a woman who loves to lunch as long as she doesn't have to chew. She has made pushing food round her plate into something of an extreme sport. Fashion types are always talking about what she eats and the latest word is that breakfast is so out that it is never coming back this side of lunch. And, as for that, she prefers to have an egg and mayonnaise sandwich - but only every third day. Every night, though, she has a steak and some mashed potatoes. And then there's always water

She says that when she comes back to London (and inevitably that means a suite at Claridges) she doesn't have to wait long to remember who she really is. This is because people are always mentioning it. Isn't she the daughter of Charles Wintour, a former editor of the Evening Standard? Or perhaps the sister of the political journal-

ist Patrick Wintour? She is, in fact, both. She remembers her childhood as one of extreme bouts of shyness, and being the odd one out in an academically inclined family. She was athletic instead - sprinting was her forte – and didn't go to university. At the age of 20 she became something lowly in the fashion department of Harpers & Queen. Even then she had something, though. "I can remember the editor saying to me that Anna was not a writer, but that she had something else; that she had the eye, and that one day she would be employing us," says the writer Vicki Wood. And indeed she would.

After five years she moved to New York in 1974. She liked the anonymity and admits that she reinvented herself. She was fired from Harper's Bazaar for not "understanding American fashion", and says that everyone should be sacked once. Soon, Si Newhouse bired her as creative director of American Vogue. She married David Shaffer, a child psychologist, and returned briefly to London to edit British Vocue. "That's where the Nuclear Wintour stuff started. I can't pretend that was pleasant," she says. She returned to New York and e-lited House and Garden, though not terribly successfully. Then came the editorship of Vogue. Since then she has never looked back.

"Working mother" is not a description that seems to fit her, but that is how she sees berself. She and her busband have two children - Charlie and Bee. They are being brought up as Americans. She herself belongs to a country somewhere over the Atlantic, and her accent fluctuates accordingly. She may come from a quintessentially British background, but there is much in Anna Wintour that shricks New York. She is absolutely driven, a perfectionist, and punctilious too. Life is detail, detail is life. That's her world. She is not one of life's warm and sweet things, but she does try to be nice. It's just that chit-chat is such a waste of time. Why use 50 words when you can use one?



Anna Wintour, the most feared woman in fashion: 'Vogue just has to say what it wants, and that will be it' Rez

means 5.30am. She has her non-breakfast with her children before taking them to school and is at her desk by "about" 7.50am. "I guess that's early here, but it's not there. Wall Street star ... earlier - at 7am!" she says. I get the feeling she approves of this.

She likes to be in charge. "I'm horribly hands on, I'm afraid. I like to read every caption. I like to know what's going on. I find that people work better if you are talking to them all the time. I think people thrive on attention."

She tries to be home by 6pm, for dinner with her children. "Tve learnt that the magazine is always going to be there the next day." She may go out to a party, but there are few late nights. She is rumoured to leave even her own parties at 11pm.

Impressive is a good word for Anna Wintour, but she is very good at diverting our attention from what is really impressive about her. People gossip about her perfectionism. Or the fact that she has a hairdresser on permanent call. Or the fact that Claridges manages to find huge bowlfuls

favourite"). But what is really impressive about Anna Wintour is the way she has made Vogue into a money-making machine. "She's vastly important because it is," says one observer. "The advertising is mindblowing. The magazine is like a telephone directory. It beats everyone else. And so she sits on top of this sort of million-billionbillion-dollar empire, and she can do no wrong. Voque doesn't have to be right. It just has to say what it wants to say, and that will be it, because the commercial clout of the magazine is so powerful that it cannot

be wrong." Anna Wintour is not a journalist's editor like, say, Tina Brown. She does not take those kinds of risks. The editorial content of American Vogue is mainstream to a word. The fashion shoots are breathtakingly expensive and the pages of ads are simply endless.

But there is a pernicious web at work here, and it is one that she herself has spun. "Anna is running the industry far beyond her influence as a taste-maker," Conde Nast's editorial director, James Truman,

She likes to get started early. This of out-of-season peonies for her ("my said last year. "All designers check in with Anna about what she thinks is modern, and what she thinks is hip. She gives them broad trend ideas about what the public is ready for." And then, of course, she features these designs in her magazine, and tells store buyers that this is, indeed, going to be the latest trend.

Each season, after the fashion shows, she writes a catwalk report predicting which items will sell big next season, She gives this vital information to the big stores, along with tips as to what Voque will be featuring. They are grateful.

"Anna tipped us off on the impact of athletic clothes for non-athletic purposes a couple of seasons ago," the fashion director at Bloomingdales explained. "We rushed to the market to look for these kinds of clothes. Vogue featured them editorially, and Bloomingdale's was right there at the same time, with the look in an ad and in our window displays." See how easy it is to get a licence to print money - if you are Anna Wintour. And it's the one thing that she isn't dramatic about at all.

HE COULD have been Jack Nicholson. According to Hollywood legend, Rip Torn was due to play the part the then unknown Nicholson played in Easy Rider, but withdrew from the

film for unspecified reasons. The director, Dennis Hopper, claimed on a chat show that the actor was sacked from the picture after pulling a knife on him in a diner, a claim that cost Hopper \$475,000 in libel damages in a Californian court, but one that fits rather nicely with

Torn's abrasive image. Knife or no knife, Rip Torn's failure to become a Hollywood superstar has blessed us with what may be the most brilliant comic turn in television history, the producer Artie in the midnight-dark satire The Larry Sanders Show, a work of ness at the centre of their lives.

genius and arguably as memorable as any of Nicholson's movie work .

The Larry Sanders Show has been justly praised as a deftly aimed kick in the teeth to the world of television and the cult of celebrity, but it is much more than that. Thanks in no small part to Rip Torn's Artie, the television programme transcends mere pastiche to become something approaching

Greek tragedy. Its terrible, self-absorbed characters - the monstrous egotist Larry, his emotionally-stunted sidekick Hank, the insecure writer Phil, and workaholic, womanising Artie are the authors of their own downfall, well-rewarded materially but unable to break free from the empti-

ACCIDENTAL HEROES OF THE

20TH CENTURY

29: RIP TORN, ACTOR

When Larry (Garry Shandling) tries to escape from the show to some rural idyll, he is brought up sharp by Artie. "You're a talk show host," growls the producer, "like some creature from goddam Greek

mythology - half-man, half-desk." Artie knows there is no way out. In a previous episode he had fled to Italy to try and revive an old loveaffair, which crumbled when, instead of dining al fresco on a moonlit

Venetian balcony, he crept back inside to watch a dubbed Larry Sanders Show on Italian cable TV. Phil tries to build a new career as a sitcom writer, but when they mess with his script he returns to the comfort blanket of the show. Hank's plans to open a successful restaurant are

constantly doomed to failure. These are, of course, situations created by writers, but it is the acting, particularly Rip Torn's, that

makes them real and rather poignant. Torn is brilliant even in scenes where he says nothing. As Larry and Hank argue over some piffling matter, Artie stands there taking it all in, brow furrowing, scowl deepening, as he decides which way he must jump to keep the show afloat. The show is all. In that sense. the programme is a satire not just on television but also on any kind of office life, where the cardboard boxes or custard creams being produced must take precedence over

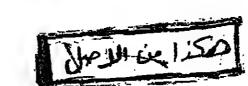
personal relationships. Garry Shandling has said that much of his business with Artie is improvised, something Rip Torn is perfectly qualified to do, having trained at Lee Strasberg's Actors Studio in New York in the Fifties and

being a great advocate of method acting His insistence on authenticity has led to a reputation for being "difficult", not unlike Artie.

He also did his career no favours by speaking out against the Vietnam war and aligning himself with the civil rights movement. But his day has arrived. It is a minor miracle that something as dark and risky as The Larry Sanders Show could come from the ultra-safe world of

American television. For Rip Torn - brilliant also in films such as Defending Your Life (1991) and Payday (1972) - it is the perfect vehicle for his method acting. Shandling may insist that he will make no more episodes of Larry Sanders, but surely there can be no escape for these people now.





THE WEEKLY MUSE

BY MARTIN NEWELL



To Casnewydd (Newport, Wales) From Colchester and back again By Super Apex on the rails Across the lumpy counterpane Of half-familiar western hills Takes longer than perhaps it might. At Reading Town the carriage fills As more embark but none alight.

Among this crowd of "customers" An Indie reader and his wife. She limps, walks with a stick, insists The journey isn't worth the strife, Suggesting that they both get off. The train is over-full, replete, But luckily some dodgy poet Stands up to volunteer his seat.

Now Mr Prescott, when you do Decide to spank the railway boys, Don't simply fine them 50p And hint you'll take away their toys, But hit the bandits good and hard. They're architects of misery And quite apart from all of this They drain our productivity.

Spring is sprung, the grass is riz. And scientists say the problem is The season's earlier than it was Some 30 years ago, because The world pumps out more CO2 Than prudent planets ought to do. So why won't we forsake the car? (See previous verses etc, blah...)

"Jogging makes the brain grow bigger": Gives the hippocampi vigour, Guards against the inner dunce... Maybe scribes should try it once. Better, though, to keep on writing -Makes you vain but more exciting. Witness Julie Burchill's quill. Loved her then. I love her still I've asked her to the running track Alas, she hasn't called me back.

"Good afternoon, Sir Smashem Uppe", We're having tea, do take a cup. Your neighbour claims the charges are You've damaged his Mercedes car. As Purley's police we've had to bring 'em In the name of Bernard Ingham. Pray don't apologise, old chap. A very trivial mishap. Good job it's this late in the day, Or what might Mrs Thatcher say?"

* With apologies to EV Rieu.

THE WEASEL

Plant in I'Call

A new lavatory bowl leads to an acquaintance with the outer reaches of the design world, while the gift of a bottle of vodka raises doubts

get alarmed. The object of her affection is inanimate. Porcelain, to be precise. After years of dithering over possible replacements for our decaying sanitary ware, she has finally plumped for a Philippe Starck lavatory bowl and, possibly, a bidet. (The mysterious nature of this item only deepens when you learn that the word means "small horse" in French.) Mrs W was seduced by the unfussy designs of the Gallic maestro. I was placated by the fact that the price of his new range is categorised as "moderate" by south London's leading supplier of lavvies to the gentry, but what won me over was the idiosyncratic nature of the Starck bathroom catalogue: "We dive in and let the water sprites revive our spirits. The odyssey is over. And still waters run deep."

Mrs W's decision will doubtless be the cherry on Starck's 50th birthday cake. In celebration of this momentous event, a retrospective of his eclectic work is currently taking place at Purves & Purves, the London design emporium. Items range from his Aprilia Moto 6.5 motorbike (£4,000) to the Dr Kiss toothbrush (E4) and Dr Cheese toothpick (£12). The Abratoo cutlery set appears a bargain at £21 until you realise that this price applies only to the plastic holder. The knives and forks etc will set you back another £210. Mr Meumeu, a sculptural form with protruding horns like Desperate Dan's cow

pie, turns out to be a £34 cheese-grater You will, doubtless, be familiar with Starck's best-known work, a lemon juicer in the shape of a three-legged spacecraft (£34). Though it is a strik- your disappointment. Do believe it is

MRS WEASEL has fallen in love. Don't ing piece of design, owners of the object say it is hopeless at its intended task. Last year, there was also a vogue for Dr Skud (£5), a fly swat with a face on the business end. The tenderhearted Philippe explains: "To counter-act the savagery of the blow, Dr Skud wears a delicate human face." I considered laying out £22.50 on an Excal-ibur plastic toilet brush to complement

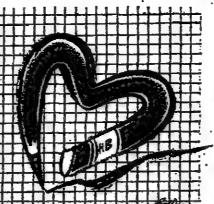
Mrs W's new loo, but I experienced some difficulty in extracting this aptly named item from its tightfitting holder (Zillionaires may consider a stainless-steel bog brush from Starck, for £170.) I was also drawn to an object

which, though not designed by his company, appears in Starck's mailorder catalogue. It is a protective respirator mask (£150) plus filter (£36.50), "Safety equipment often provokes a surprised reaction, not to mention doubts about mental health," declares le moitre. "To be safely equipped for any possible chemical bacteriological or radioactive mishap is either a symptom of paranoia or shows an excessively pessimistic nature. Events of this type will unfortunately become routine

cessory for the Weasel thunder-box. Notably absent from the exhibition is Starck himself. The swarthy genius refused point-blank to attend the opening. At the back of the showroom is a display of increasingly desperate invitations from Purves & Purves and shrugging responses from a Starck underling. "I do understand very well

occurrences." It sounds the perfect ac-

very umpleasant to feel like a gumman," says one. "It has been tough to make him think positively about this event," says another. Of course, anyone who has read the tome celebrating the man and his works, Storck (Taschen, £24.99), will not be surprised by his nonappearance. Speaking in 1996, he asserted: "If [my] strategy of immateriality is successful, this implies my



eventual disappearance... In precisely two years, I will halt my material activities." A man of his word, Philippe's latest product is a transparent plastic chair (£95). Invisibility beckons.

IT OFTEN seems that when you're looking forward to something, along comes some fragment of information that tends to dilute your anticipation. This happened the other day when a friend presented me with a bottle of vodka after visiting Russia. It was Stolichnaya, according to the Cyrillic label. But the seal had been broken and it was not the celebrated brand inside. "You've got a treat there," my churn, a medical man, intimated. "This is home brew. What the Russians really drink."

So there I was, mentally licking my lips, when I came across a tiny news item which dramatically dimin-

ished my appetite: "Moscow: Every 22 minutes a Russian dies after drinking spirits of dubious origin, the Interior Ministry said, adding that in the first 11 months of last year, 21,778 people died from bad alcohol, compared with 23,983 for all of 1997." Worse still, the report added that these figures are suspiciously low. According to the Interior Ministry's own economic crimes department, the 1997 figure was nearly 43,000 deaths.

I was on the blower pronto, asking my friend about the provenance of his moonshine. Moscow, he replied, a touch narked. But where exactly? His reply was less than re-

assuring: "A place recommended by a Russian psychiatrist." With the potentially poisoned chal-ice sitting untasted in our drinks cupboard, I pursued my researches into Russia's national grog. In The Vodko. Componion, Desmond Begg writes: "It is estimated that the Russians still drink nearly 32 pints of vodka per capita year, almost twice as much as pland." This is almost three bottles a month for everyone, babies and babushkas included. With a population

topping 140 million, Russia's annual consumption amounts to a staggering (for once the cliché is spot-on) 4,480 million pints, much of which must be illicit. The chances of our getting a killer bottle, while by no means impossible, were pretty remote. More reliable evidence came in the form of our doctor pal, who remained in rude good health after getting through his own stock.

There remained one final test: Mrs Weasel I took some as well, of course. Not much more than a minute or two later, honest, I felt that our hooch had more characterful palate than orthodox vodka, not dissimilar to grappa. Mrs W was less fulsome: "Smells like a clinic." Still, it didn't put us into one.

TALKING OF psychiatrists, did you hear Professor Lewis Wolpert giving some stick to one on Start the Week? Even Jeremy Paxman, no slouch at grouchiness himself, commented on the prof's volcanic ire. Another example of Wolpert's seething occurs in On Giants' Shoulders, Melvyn Bragg's fine book on the great names of science. What gets Lewis's goat is the one thing that everybody thinks they know about Archimedes (287BC-212BC): "It irritates me intensely. I prefer my heroes to be more dignified... He may have been thinking about it in the bath, but it was not because he saw the water go up. That is nonsense. Do not believe a word of it!" An account of the Greek sage a few pages earlier supports the prof's opinion: "According to myth, Archimedes did not spare the time to wash." No bath, no eureka. QED.

SPIRIT OF THE AGE

PAUL VALLELY

The gospel according to Linda

he always goes that bit too far. He does it on purpose. "I like being infuriatingly heretical," he said, as he sat in his office in Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he was, until his retirement a

couple of years ago, the dean.
And yet this time the academic, whom the tabloids once tagged the atheist Anglican, thinks there is nothlatest book, The New Religion of Life in Everyday Speech. He is a rangy giant of a man, whose legs seemed too long for either the chair at his desk or the armchair into which he subsequently moved as our conversation 14 different categories, all of which corbecame more entangled.

"I'm always treated as way out when I'm reviewed in theology journals," he said, ruffling the shock of vigorous grey hair that tops his head. "And yet all I'm saying here is what most ordinary people think. I'm only trying to persuade the reader of what he knows already."

His latest thesis is that the word "life" has replaced "God" in modern speech patterns - a change that he reckons amounts to "a major religious event" that has gone unnoticed over the last three decades.

Just as the contemporary cult of celebrity is the late modern return of the cult of saints, he pointed out, so other religious impulses have been refocused in our language, "Celebrities act out our myths, embody our causes, are our role models and have become

nection consciously, as with the "Saint Linda" posters when Linda McCartney died, or the talk of the beatification of Diana, Princess of Wales. "So it is with words. There's a world view that is built into ordinary language."

To prove it he has studied 150 modern proverbs and epigrams which show how comprehensive has been the shift from the idea of life-after-death to "something that gives itself to us in the here and now". The book lists phrases about life in

respond to the old ways of speaking about God. Life is a self-propagating power (as is revealed by phrases such as "a spark of life"); it is a mystery ("the meaning of life"); it is personified ("life's been good to me"); it is awesome and holy ("the sanctity of life"); it challenges us ("today is the first day of the rest of your life"); it demands total commitment ("quality of life"); it is a grave sin to despair against it ("you've got the wrong attitude to life"); it demands conversion ("an aim in life"); it is providential ("life goes on"); it prompts acceptance ("such is life") and also demands joy ("this is the life"): it contains an eschatology ("life is short"); it should not be tempted ("liv-

ing dangerously"; and those without it are bereft ("life is passing me by"). "In the past life was hard and wretched, as the Prayer Book used to

children, just as saints once were," he said. Sometimes we make the con-What was restricted to the gentry in the 18th century and the middle class in the 19th has been democratised and everyone assumes the right to enjoy life rather than merely endure it in the hope of reward in the hereafter."

It has shifted the focus of the modworld of gold and jewels where nothing ever fades. In its place is an invigorated appreciation of the transient. Now even the Church is catching up with this - as with Christian Aid's slogan: We believe in life before death'." he said. "Ironically the clergy have become one of the most entires iastic users of the 'life' vocabulary, particularly Catholic fundamentalists such as the Pope. But, of course, they are well behind what ordinary people have recognised instinctively."

Where Dr Cupitt goes too far this time, it seems to me, is that he is not merely content to describe this shift. Rather, while remaining a priest and a communicant member of the Church of England, he endorses it without reservation. "The old repressive and disciplinarian approaches, the notions of original sin which made people despise themselves, the insistence on conscience and duty, are being replaced. Instead we have human rights, lifestyle, coming out, selfexpression and affirmation - a world



A saint for our times? Linda McCartney's London memorial service

their thing and to strut their stuff." This does not exactly seem an adequate substitute. Whatever was wrong with the Nicene Creed, it needs to be replaced with something more substantial than the lyrics of "My Way". But Dr Cupitt was having none of that. Frank Sinatra is "the prophet of Nietzscheanism in popular song", he said, suggested that "the vocabulary of human rights is the beginnings of a pan-religious world ethic".

"Morality isn't built into the structure of the universe; we inherit morality like language," he said. "And, like language, morality changes. We live in a world of continuous moral change. Values are transient and are rethought by each generation. Some where everyone has the chance to say values live longer than others, just as

some words do, though what they mean will shift subtly over the years. You don't need an external policeman to keep the English language in place. It's kept going just by being used. It's the same with morality."

I was not sure about this: left to their own devices people routinely behave badly. He disagreed. "Our need to get on with one another prevents us from developing a private morality, as it does a private language. In biology, natural selection produces livelier, tougher plants. So it will with morals. You have to trust in the processes of life."

If the analogies between language, biology and morality were exact then perhaps I might. Or, then again, perhaps I should just start to look on

DAYS LIKE THESE

27 FEBRUARY 1947 SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR. French author (pictured).

writes in her journal about

a stay in Los Angeles:

We are invited to lunch by George Stevens [co-founder of Liberty Films]. He has reserved a table at Lucy's, a restaurant situated between the three big studios: Warner, RKÖ and Paramount. The elegance of the patrons is rather flamboyant: the platinum blondes are dressed in soft pink and pale blue, and as in New York, they're decorated with feathers. After martinis which are to martinis in Paris what the ideal circle is to circles drawn on a blackboard - the meal is delicious. George has asked two scriptwriters to join us, a man and a woman. They repeat to me that censorship

has become increasingly

a subject more and more

difficult. They think of

John Steinbeck book,

harsh in the past two years,

which makes coming up with

making a film from the latest

Wayward Bus, but there's a



it who sleeps with the driver, purely for pleasure. It is impossible to include such an episode in a movie, yet it's essential to the story. It will have to be replaced by a sentimental drama of the usual moral and touching sort, which will distort the characters and remake the plot so drastically that nothing will be left of the original novel. They hesitate. They tell me they constantly find themselves hamstrung in this way. The scripts are becoming increasingly stupid and monotonous, and the public is beginning to notice. Hence the success of English and Italian films,

and even French films."

4 MARCH 1817

ELIZABETH FRY Quaker prison reformer. writes in her journal:

"I have just returned from a

most melancholy visit to Newgate prison, where I have been at the request of Elizabeth Fricker, previous to her execution [for robbery] tomorrow morning, at eight o'clock. I found ber much hurried, distressed. and tormented in mind, her hands cold, and covered with something like the perspiration preceding death, and in a universal tremor. Beside this poor young woman, there are also six men to be hanged one of whom has a wife near her confinement, also condemned, and seven young children. Since the awful report came down, he has become quite mad, from horror of mind. A strait waistcoat could not keep him within bounds; he has just bitten the turnkey: I saw the man come out with his hand bleeding, as I

passed the cell."

Our colour became to us a chain

THERE IS a time to be cool and a time to be hot. See - you got messed up into thinking that there is only one time for everything. There is a time to love and a time for hate. Even Solomon said that. You're just taking something out of the book that fits your cowardly nature when you don't want to fight, and you say: "Well, Jesus said don't fight." But I don't even believe Jesus said that.

I wouldn't call on anybody to be violent without a cause. But I think the black man in this country, above and beyond people all over the world, will be more justified when he stands up and starts to protect himself, no matter how many necks he has to break and heads he has to crack

I say it is time for black people to put together the type of action, the unity, that is necessary to pull the sheet off of them so they won't be frightening black people any longer That's all And when we say this, the press calls us "racist in reverse". "Don't struggle except within the ground rules that the people you're struggling against have the papers to make them look like laid down." Why, this is insane, but it leaders, so that the people will keep on shows how they can do it.

When you start thinking for yourselves, you frighten them, and they try to block your getting to the public, for the fearthat if the public listens to you then the public won't listen to them anymore. And they've got certain Negroes whom they have to keep blowing up in



From a speech by the black rights activist Malcolm X at a meeting in Detroit,

PODIUM

delivered the day after his house was bombed and a week before his assassination

(14 FEBRUARY 1965)

following them, no matter how many knocks they get on their heads

This is how the man does it, and if you don't wake up and find out how he does it I tell you, they'll be building gas chambers and gas ovens pretty soon -I don't mean those kind you've got at

up in gas ovens over there in Germany. You're in a society that's just as capable of building gas ovens for black people as Hitler's society was.
You know yourself that we have been

a people who hated our African characteristics. We hated our heads, we hated the shape of our noses, we wanted one of those long, dog-like noses, you know; we hated the colour of our skip, hated the blood of Africa that was in our veins. And in hating our features and our skin and our blood, why, we had to end up hating ourselves. And we hated ourselves.

Our colour became to us a chain we felt that it was holding us back; our colour became to us like a prison which we felt was keeping us confined, not letting us go this way or that way. We felt that all of these restrictions were based solely upon our colour, and the psychological reaction to that would have to be that, as long as we felt imprisoned or chained or trapped by black skin, black features and black blood, that skin and those features and that blood holding us back automatically had to become hateful to us. And they became hateful to us.

They made us feel inferior, they made us feel inadequate, made us feel helpless. And when we fell victims to this feeling of inadequacy or inferiority or helplessness, we turned to some-

home in your kitchen – and you'll be body else to show us the way. We didn't in one of them, just as the Jews ended have confidence in another black man to show us the way, or black people to show us the way.

In those days we didn't. We didn't think a black man could do anything except play some horns - you know, make some sound and make you happy with some songs and in that way. Doing things for ourselves. Because we felt helpless. What made us feel helpless was our hatred for ourselves.

Just because you're in this country doesn't make you an American. No, you've got to go farther than that before you can become an American. You've got to enjoy the fruits of Americanism. You haven't enjoyed those fruits. You've enjoyed the thorns. You've enjoyed the thisties. But you have not enjoyed the fruits, no sir. You have fought harder for the fruits than the white man has, you have worked harder for the fruits than the white man has, but you've enjoyed less.

I say again that I'm not a racist. I don't believe in any form of segregation. I'm for brotherhood for everybody, but I don't believe in forcing brotherhood upon people who don't want it. Let us practise brotherhood among ourselves, and then if others want to practise brotherhood with us, we're for practising it with them also. But I don't think that we should run around trying to love somebody who doesn't love us.



to Linda



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THE WEEKEND REVIEW

THE SATURDAY ESSAY

Our modern age requires a new definition of beauty



JENKS The conventionally ugly can be perceived as beautiful, as shown by the response to some of this century's works of art

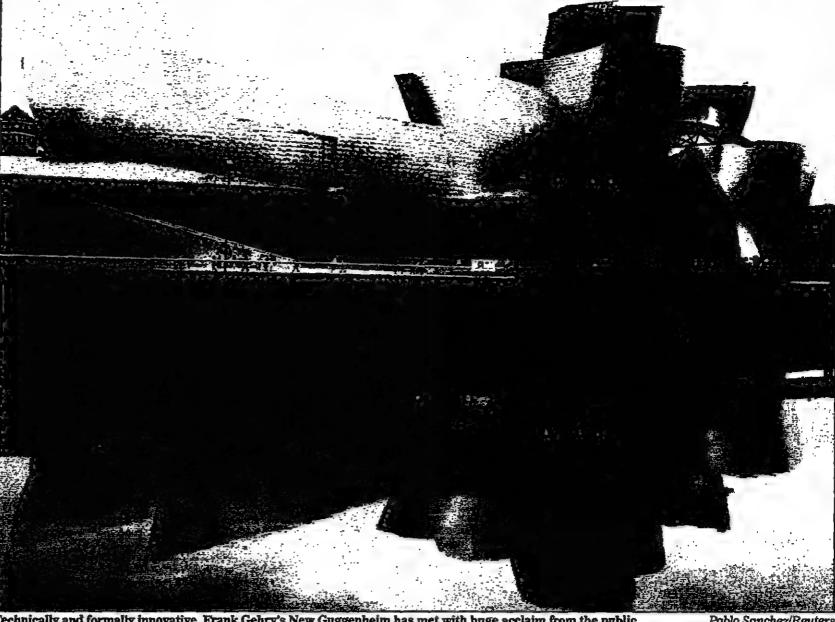
IT IS not only Prince Charles who bemoans the loss of beauty in our culture, but almost everyone: the dislike of an ugly environment is not an acquired taste. Yet there is a problem with an uncomplicated view of the situation. For more than 150 years, artists and architects have shied away from seeking beauty for itself, and have doubted that there is an objective measure of it. Indeed, the ironic muddle over the term is rather democratic. People go on using a word which they doubt has any real substance, a situation I hope to clarify, by redefining its meaning here. Four essential aspects of the concept, evident in recent work, show what is at stake.

The first component is the most obvious. In a beautiful work there must be some formal coherence and brilliance; or, put another way, a relatively complex manipulation of a formal language. This, rather than a particular type of harmony, is what matters, because we can experience all patterns in nature as beautiful, not just the spheres, cones and cylinders of classical and modern aesthetics. For too long the West has raistaken one canon of beauty for the more general principle. But, as scientists have recently discovered, the eye and mind respond to every conceivable pattern spirais, crinkles, folds, fields, zigzags and dots - all the fractal forms that underlie nature. It is the particular concentration on their intensification which constitutes the formal part of beauty. Put in a mutshell, this aspect of beauty, this intensification, concerns patterns about patterns, or natterns squared. This sounds unexceptional, but it contains a surprise.

It means that conventionally patterns may be beautiful - even repugnant things such as gargoyles, or Brutalist buildings, or Chinese yellow-wax rocks. The last named can appear initially repulsive, but a Chinese connoisseurship has grown which celebrates their particular qualities, just as we have done with grotesques, and a host of modern works of the last 50 years. Beauty can refer to these discordant patterns so long as they are developed consistently and inventively. or when the patterns are self-reflexive and

The conventional definitions of beauty. for instance that of the Oxford English Dictionary, mention harmony a perfect combination of unity and variety - that is one formal type: "such combined perfection of form and charm of colouring as affords keen pleasure to the sense of sight". The problem is that, in the 20th century, we have extended the concept way beyond such things as charm, grace and the perfection of fitness.

This extension, the second component of beauty, has led to "the tradition of the new". An old beauty is, if not tiring, still not quite as exciting as one perceived for the first time - caught on the wing. The reasons for this are complex and probably exist on several different levels, some of which have been illuminated by mormation theory, others by psychology and cognitive theory. One reason for the importance of the new concerns the way creativity stimulates neuronal growth and the way we experience it. To over-simplify: when the mind perceives a new idea it is partly aroused by its own growth. It is as if the mind received a natural pleasure in feeling its dendrites coalesce in new ways, feeling its glial cells send little nodules spinning down the neuronal highways to meet



Technically and formally innovative, Frank Gehry's New Guggenheim has met with huge acclaim from the public

up with those on a different path. We can now watch such micro-growth on film and literally see new ideas linking up with old ones. Perhaps this is too physical a description, but I think it has a suggestive aspect. For instance, every time one hears a new joke, and finds it furny, the mind bristles with new connective tissue, and the ter - signals the construction of new

A particularly powerful example of this linkage creates the pleasure we have when perceiving a striking breakthrough. This one-off experience, when it is really significant, can be remembered for life. I would call it "Eureka learning", after the mythic occasion on which Archimedes, getting into his bathtub and displacing water, suddenly realised that the specific weight of gold could be measured. "Eureka, I found it", the delighted cry accompanying a substantial breakthrough, is more powerful than the everyday, micro-creativity we experience because the frames of reference are more deeply separated, more disjunctive, more unlikely. Hence our delight at the shock of the new when it is a real breakthrough, and not something merely different or clever.

I think this explains the truth behind every avant-garde movement, all the isms" that have become "wasms", and why we value them. In spite of the bad art produced in their wake, their breakthroughs create momentary standards that are perceived as beautiful. They create a new way of seeing, feeling, experiencing the world, a new kind of knowledge, and this cognitive extension is an essential part of the experience of beauty. In short, the second principle explains why, in any strong experience of the beautiful, there must be some component of new know-

ledge, new creative linkage.
In effect, any new definition of beauty must deal positively with changing taste. Historians make the valid point that the standards of beauty are always being reset. In part they are culturally con-structed. As information theorists showed in the Fifties and Sixties, the beautiful is

a judicious mixture of a) what was beautiful yesterday plus b) a significant variation from it - a "swerve", in the well-known formulation of Harold Bloom. This explains why every avant garde has the difficult job of honouring and killing its parent at the same time and why, as a result of this double-take, there is coherent movement variations from them.

A third criterion of beauty is that it entails an imaginative projection of a particular kind: one that invests an object with attributes of perfection. Perceiving is always an active investment of hopes, desires and goals of various kinds; it is oriented to a future state and, where beauty is concerned, that state is assumed to be ideal in some respects. Of course, the object must be suitable for such projection; classical beauties such as the Taj Mahal remind us of that. The moon, before Galileo showed it to be a dead lump of matter with earthly mountains, was a suitable object; it remains so for many, even after astronauts have played golf on it. The Taj and the moon were both suitable receptacles for articulating our wishes. Suggestive figures - enigmas, as the painter De Chirico argued - may also work this way. "Always suggest, never name" was an injunction of Symbolist poets and painters in the 19th century, and much modern and

post-modern art has proved the point. The fourth component to beauty concerns subject matter. The content, theme, idea, or archetypal emotion at stake must be sufficiently important for a work to be called beautiful. Content matters. But content, as some abstract painters and musicians have shown, can approach pure form, if it is manipulated well enough to become the mimesis or analogue of an idea.

In effect, the articulation of an abstract pattern becomes experienced as the equivalent of deep emotion; the formal pattern becomes the content, a truth often observed when someone, calling a symphony beautiful remarks on the merging of content and form. The abstract Expressionism of Jackson Pollock, on view at the Tate from 11 March, is a particularly apt

example of this truth: the patterns of his painting performance were translated directly on to the canvas as the expression of significant emotion.

Yet these cases of abstract formal brilliance, however important in themselves, are limiting ones and they do not address the main point. Beauty thrives on an emotion we find significant, or an idea we find fundamental to life; love, quite obviously, and first and last things, and our relation to the rest of humanity, nature and the cosmos. It is clear that all the modern masterpieces have some archetypal idea behind them, as exemplified by Stravinsky's Le Sacre de Printemps, TS Eliot's "The Wasteland", Picasso's Guernica and Le Corbusier's Ronchamp. The same is true for post-modern exemplars such as Philip Glass's Einstein on the Beach, Salmon Rushdie's Midnight Children, Ron Kitaj's If Not, Not and Frank Gebry's New Guggenheim in Bilbao. One reason for the importance of the idea in such masterworks is not hard to find: it is a major spur to creativity - either an alluring goal, or the boot that kicks the artist several feet ahead of a competitor.

Gehry's new building illustrates all the aspects of beauty I have mentioned and, most importantly, their synergetic interaction. First, it has innovated on many technical and aesthetic levels at the same time: for instance, a French computer program has dimensioned and cut the curved shapes so there is little wasted material. little greater expense than if the building were constructed of repeated rectangles. It consists of something like 26 self-similar fractals, petal shapes with pinched edges that lead the eye to a culmination, like the arrises in conventional architecture, and these forms also sculpt the light quite beautifully. So new knowledge, both formal and technical, is here an essential part of the experience of the building.

Second, the exuberant metaphors of growth - the building seems to explode like a burgeoning plant - are appropriate for its cultural and civic role and, inside the museum, they heighten one's experience of the art. Being abstract and in a new formal language, the patterns suggest such metaphors without naming them. And finally, reflecting the moods and colours of the Nervion river, the setting sun, the undulating hills and passing trains, the building becomes a fitting symbol for the city. Why? Because it mediates between the very large-scale, the cosmos, the mid-scale, deep symbol always ties us into the whole context this way, and it is this that amounts

to the significant content. In effect, the four areas I have singled out have been knitted together in such a synergetic way that one cannot immedlately understand the motives behind the forms. They are multiply coded, multivalent, many-motivated and ambiguous; any form or function slides into several contexts at once, and does so in a new way. As a result, many interpretations are possible, indeed inevitable, as in a response to all great works of art. One measure of worth, or beauty, is simply the number of different ways a work can be plausibly decoded. And since it has been encoded in a way that extends tradition, it will be perceived and understood in new ways.

The great response to the New Guggenheim shows that its values are being strongly perceived. Both architects and the general public are excited by the building, and I think the reason for this is that they are learning from it while enjoying sensual pleasures. Its strength comes from combining two powerful instincts - the drives to know more about the universe, and to relate to the cosmos aesthetically, erotically and mentally. Many people have called the Gebry building beautiful, and that raises the general question I am posing in a striking form. Perhaps, since it is not conventionally harmonious, we need an entirely new word for the experience that combines the four areas? Perhaps "Cognirotic perception"? Or, the combined perception of the "Sensuclect", or the act of "Erocination"? These won't do, so, until we find a substitute, we are stuck with the old term. Whatever the word, however, the key issue remains at stake: the creation of

BAROMETER

SEAN O'GRADY

Good-bye, Crinkly Bottom, Farewell NTV. The BBC has driven a stake through the heart of Mr Blobby. Noel Edmonds House Party, the show that made Gladiators look like Jacob Bronowski's The Ascent of Man, of his guests to far-flung, isolated locations if they failed a simple test. Now that Noelly has failed the ratings test, the BBC also wants to send him somewhere. As the BBC said: 'We're moving on to something different. 'Axed' is a negative word. This is a positive, forward move." Couldn't agree more

girl? It's Barbie, who celebrates her 40ti birthday on 9 March, Barbie has an extremely impressive CV. According to her makers, Mattel. she is a world-famous actress, an awardwinning rock star and an Olympic figure skater. She holds a full pilot's licence, has achieved several masters degrees (including veterinary science and business administration) and still has time to be an active member of all four branches of the US military. Barbie is entering middle age with her raciest look vet - she is now into Body Art (butterfly tatoos).

Who's

that boy?

It's Big John,

tell Barbie.

of Edinburgh, who also likes Body Art. If you want to join in the latest craze then de riqueur are plain black tribal designs derived from Maori facial markings. But it can create problems. Martin Skinner, a osychologist at Warwick University, says: "People may be put off tattoos because of the associations they make. Even an ornate butterfly might suggest something about selfinflicted pain, which is an

Feline Body Art. Here is Mr MOOR & Persian cream cat. He is a favourite to win prizes at New York's International Cat Show at

Doc? **Big Bunny** Body Art. An unfeasibly large rabbit named Rodmin.

weighing in at about 18lb. He lives, on a strict cauliflower-andcabbage diet, at the Stoneywish Country Park, Ditchling, East

Should men have bables? Lord Winston, the fertility

expert, says that it is possible to make a man pregnant using the latest techniques. This is Tiny, of the rock group Ultrasound, at the launch of London Fashion Week.

looking as it he's about to give birth to a mule. Now, that really would be





A car picks me up from the flat which. I share with my brother in Muswell Hill, north London. I meet up with Charlie Humain who plays Nathan in Queer as Folk at Channel 4, to do an interview. It's a laugh. It's my first

very supportive. Charlie and I then go to meet up with my brother and Michael, our PR man, for a few drinks. We go to the Coach and Horses in Soho and then . exhausted and have an early night.

Today I do a phone interview for Boys magazine, which is distributed in gay pubs and clubs around the country. In the afternoon I go to look Craig Kelly of 'Queer as Folk' at two flats that I'm thinking of buy-

ing in North London. I take my brother and his girlfriend Jackie along for a second and third opinion.

I have to get up early tomorrow to appear on This Morning so tonight I stay in and watch the telly. I'm really looking forward to meet-TV interview in ages and they are ing Richard and Judy: the programme is such an institution.

Today's the day Queer as Folk is to be broadcast and I'm up early to get to Pierre Victoire for supper I am a car to the studio for Richard and Judy. They are very friendly, and it's a relaxed, firm interview.

In the afternoon I make an offer on a flat. My brother, who's also an actor, comes back from work and surprises me with a bottle of chamalways quite an experience to see I turn my phone off I really want to will go down in terms of attitude. Get up at 9am to do another radio

MY WEEK

CRAIG KELLY, WHO PLAYS THE PART OF VINCE TYLER IN 'QUEER AS FOLK'

start ringing - both my mobile and my land line. First to call are my mum and dad; they have enjoyed the

programme and are proud of me. All my friends are absolutely amazed by the show, they love it and think it is slick and stylish. I get carried away with all the excitement and next time I look at the clock it's pagne. Then we watch the show. It's to do the Big Breakfust tomorrow so and I'm wondering which route they

something you're proud of on TV Im-mediately it finishes the phones Safari by Air It's very mellow and eventually I drop off.

Wednesday

get up. A really nice silver Jag comes to pick me up, but I can't ap-

preciate it because I'm too tired. I meet up with Charlie [Nathan] at the studio and have a coffee. This nearly one in the morning. Pve got is the first interview after the show

Johnny Vaughan's first question is What was the show about?" So I tell him that the show is about love, friends, and the life of three central characters who happen to be gay. I've probably said more than is expected for a first response, but the rest of the interview is fine.

I want to sleep but remember that I've got a radio voice-over to do in Soho. On my way there I go in to HMV and buy CDs by Casius, Stereophonics, Kula Shaker, the Wake up about 6am not wanting to new single by Blur, and Maxwell's Urban Hang Suite and the sound-

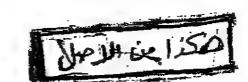
track to Shaft. I discover that my offer on the flat has been accepted, I'm over the

moon and in bed by 9pm. Thursday

voice-over in Soho. Then the rest of today is spent with my accountant. In the evening I go to The Church pub in Muswell Hill with some mates. Queer as Folk is reviewed on The Late Review. I expected a negative response but they all loved it, which is a nice end to the evening.

Overnight I have developed a terrible cough. I have a telephone inter-

view for BBC Radio Leeds and hope I won't be spluttering everywhere. They try to touch on the more controversial aspects of the show but I've got used to dealing with these questions now. The rest of the day is spent sorting out the details on the house. In the evening I go to Blacks, a drinking-club in Soho, until 1am. INTERVIEW BY DAISY PRICE



The Independent 27 February 1999

Norman Rosenthal was the man behind the infamous Sensation exhibition. But, he says, you ain't seen nothing yet. By David Lister

Mark in I'CA

The eye of the beholder

vant procedures and committees. Damien Hirst's shark, And it can get him into trouble, as probably quite boring people into Tracey Emin's love around the time of Sensation when tent and Marcus Tayhe was called before the academilor's painting of Myra cians like a naughty schoolboy and censured for being publicly rude Hindley was the most controversial exhibiabout some of their number who had tion in the Royal Academy's history. criticised Sensation. He had said on television of the septuagenarian fig-Also one of the most successful. So when the Academy announced this urative painter John Ward: "What is week that it was to put on a sequel, the point of painting a picture unless it is going to change the world? Sensation 2. I expected to find its garrulous impresario dying to talk Maybe I am wrong and he is right, and the world will suddenly declare about it. John Ward RA to be a great artist, Impresario, by the way, is his word. It's not a word most curators but at this moment in time I doubt use to describe themselves, but the it." Ward, in turn, told the press. "I Royal Academy's exhibition secrewant his balls." They don't waste

man - and he knows it. "I love art. tablishment "The members of the Royal Acadbut I'm not an artist. I'm an impreemy are wonderfully nice people," Rosenthal says now. "You have to sario. I'm a stage manager. I get it And a good Impresario wants to take these things seriously but with shout about his next project. Sena certain sense of humour. But you have to deliver the goods here. If I sation 2 isn't for another year. At the moment he is working on a major had three or four years of flops, I'd Van Dyck exhibition. And this

Anyway, Rosenthal apologised and censure is as far as disciplining him was ever likely to go. He is a loose cannoa, but one whose touch with exhibitions, or as he terms it, "flash instinct", is so unfailingly sure - and well before the current Monet blockbuster he was changing perceptions of art in Britain - that the Academy simply couldn't afford to lose him. The fustier academicians have to grit their teeth and bear it. And perhaps they quietly admire a man who believes every

gerness, to enthuse as much about picture should change the world. an Old Master ("The best way to Besides, he is always prepared to learn about art is literally to learn justify his unbridled enthusiasms. So the National Gallery") as about I challenge him on Van Dyck. Mar-Damien Hirst, a favourite of Rosenvellous artist, but can his paintings really be "as extraordinary as anywhen he claimed that Norman had thing ever done by human beings"? As extraordinary as the seven wondiscussed possible membership of the Royal Academy with him. ders of the world? Rosenthal does Rosenthal probably did; but then, as not pause. "Yes. These are a single person's experience. A wonder of the he is the first to admit, he speaks his world is architecture. But this is imagination that has gone into these

portraits, transforming what were substance and poetry

That's passion, but probably ranks only eight on the Rosenthal scale. Force 10 for him was the Sistine Modonna by Raphael in Dres-den. "I got up at four in the morning to go there. It was minus 20 degrees centigrade. When I stood in front of it, nothing else existed. I walked out of the room backwards at six in the

For someone with a passion for

both the cutting edge of contemporary art and the European Old Masters, the Royal Academy is the perfect place to be as it is the only words at the heart of Britain's art esgallery which embraces the two equally. And Rosenthal says he "wakes up every morning not believing how lucky I am to be here". He arrived at the Royal Academy from the ICA in 1977. And it was in 1981, with A New Spirit in Painting, that he invigorated the art world: an exhibition that brought acclaim to the likes of Baselitz and Schnabel. Along with exhibitions of Picasso's later work and American Art In The 20th Century, and the insights brought by the major shows on photography and pop art, not to mention two Monet blockbusters, he turned what could have been an institution simply showcasing academicians' work into a place where reputations were made and whole movements redefined.

But while Rosenthal looks with satisfaction on a London with unprecedented interest in contemporary art, be remembers that it was not ever thus. "I can remember when only about 300 people in London were interested," he says "It was a tiny audience for contemporary art. Thirty people at exhibitions, and always the same people. Rather like the situation is now for contemporary music, the world of Harry Birtwistle and Tommy Ades."

With a few pals like Nicholas Serota, now director of the Tate and Charles Saatchi, he was instru-

Guide Books



Norman Rosenthal in an exhibition room at the RA; 'Art is an extremely rich way of getting through life'

mental in changing that, "I knew Charles 25 years ago when he only had a small collection and worked at a small advertising agency. Nick put on Joseph Beuys in Oxford and I put Beuys on at the ICA. I called it Art Into Society, Society Into Art. We didn't come together consciously to plot it. But art is a language. And we have striven to get people familiar with the language. There's no great moral imperative about being interested in art. But it's an extremely rich way of getting through life. Better than trainspotting and, in my opinion, better than football."

His power to mould public thinking on contemporary art was not applauded by everyone. The late art critic Peter Fuller, founding editor of the magazine Modern Painters, fulminated about Rosenthal and friends as "the academy of the avant-garde". But Rosenthal rapidly won over the doubters.

For Rosenthal's personal development, the most significant exhibition was on the Spanish painter Murillo. His opposite number at the Prado in Madrid was, and is, Manuela Marques. Their professional relationship became a personal one, but she lives in Madrid with their two daughters aged seven and five, and the couple indulge in a lot of commuting and faxing.

"This is the age of the phone and the fax, and so we can communicate. I go there every two weeks and they come here quite a lot. In Madrid, I go and play in the park with my children. There are all sorts of things I would like to share with her that I can't share. But we speak every day."

They knew each other for 10 years before getting married, a fact. he explains with a curiously typical and disarming mix of art, life, love, logistics, and the universe. "I don't like mixing my private life with my

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THE PERSON WHO TRENS

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I mean? She is very involved with Goya and has strong ideas about Veiázquez. Why do people get married? Life is a constellation. And it's

His relatively late marriage combined with his love of music (he was on the Royal Opera board for a while and is happy to go to a concert every night of the week) keep him aware that there is life beyond art. He expressed it in a typically memo-rable vein recently. Art is nothing compared to life. Nothing is more beautiful than a tree. I discovered that in the summer. No work of art can compete with a tree. But art is a fantastic thing because it helps you look at a tree."

Meanwhile, he will give few clues about Sensation 2 other than to say he has "three models going round in my head" but will make no final decision until much nearer the time

House & Home

professional life. Do you know what as such an exhibition "has to be about what is happening". He adds: "I do an exhibition to please myself because if I please myself there's just a chance it might please someone else. Those who don't do it for themselves get it wrong."

And, concluding with a supremely Rosenthal flourish combining art his tory, fact, philosophy and wild fancy, he adds: "We have had two great innovative exhibitions here which have revealed what art is and what it can be: A New Spirit In Painting and Sensation. Both were put on with great speed. Sensation was put on because we failed to get another show from Berlin. Charles Saatchi and I weren't going to put Sensation together for another three or four years. And I said 'now!'. It's like things are meant to happen. I'm not religious in the ordinary sense of the word. But it's mystical. Things are

TEL: 0171 293 2222

tary, Norman Rosenthal, is a show-

impresario gives the art history equivalent of "You ain't seen noth-

Genoese portraits here in the

autumn - they are as extraordinary

as anything that has ever been done

that. Not just the paradoxical habit

of ending his most assertive state-

ments with a questioning grunt that

Is seeking approval; more the in-

creasingly unusual ability, indeed ea-

thal's who caused a bit of a furore

thoughts out loud all the time with-

out always going through the rele-

There's a fair bit of Rosenthal in

by human beings. Hnnh?"

When we see the extraordinary

together. Yes?'

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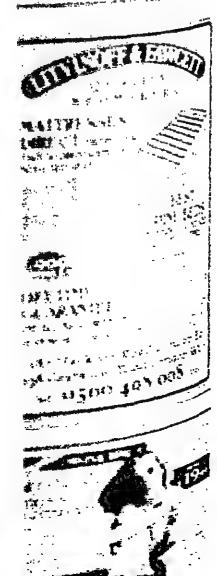
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Solas and Sola Beb





This green unpleasant land

On the anniversary of the Countryside March, Stevie Morgan came to London in search of bright lights and entertainment. She found a silent, dogged population staring at pigeons

he irritation starts around I need animals as an antidote to all this city. Slough, when the mobile phone boys get going. Like all the other city types they're never content with the present, they're always panting for the next mo-ment: Pace as a substitute for content. So by the time I've got to Paddington,

eavesdropping on the boring half of six conversations has made me grumpy. Still, I leave the train with the sense of expectation which always accompanies my arrival here. I mean swinging London, right, the place where exciting stuff happens. The first disappointment is that there

is no one on the platform that I know. Ontrageous I have 18 friends in London and not one of them is among the hundreds on the concourse! What's the point of a crowded place if you don't run into someday, I could get lucky... I don't get lucky on the Tube. But then

it looks as though nobody does. There's an overwhelming atmosphere of dull misery. Not even the punk guy with the pinstripe suit and the crimson hair looks like he has much fim, and the young black Maya Angelou lookalike seems ready to slap everyone in the carriage. It's like we've all been given one month to live and have to spend it here on the Bakerloo line. Perhaps some of us have been given just one. month to live - who knows what fascinating ramifications of human experience we could share, if only somebody would speak. They look like an interesting bunch to me, but I'll never see them again. The train doors open, and another lot of strangers shrices in.

Passing through the pigeons with their dry, tallets rustle of feathers all around me is very comforting. Other people are seeking the solace of non-human life forms too. How come, if the architecture and the cultural buzz are so great in the city, peopie come here to see pigeons? Not one of the 50 people hanging out here even glances up at poor old Horatio. (Incidentally, on a nice day Londoners don't play in the traffic, they go and find a piece of im-itation countryside, the park.) Aguy from Battersea and his grandson

Who knows what fascinating experiences we could share, if only

someone would speak

are covered in birds: "I bring him every week," the man tells me. "I always tell him how these are wild birds." With pigeon food at 25p a shot, this could be the only entertainment bargain left

I hail a taxi. At least taxi drivers talk to you. And God knows there's always time to talk in a London cab. The traffic is parked from Charing Cross to Fulham. By the time I arrive (having navigated for the driver using my pocket A to Z. The Knowledge! Pah!) I know about all his children's careers, roarriages and interior decor. "Course, I don't live in London," he says. "I like the country. Hendon's where I go to roost."

The ignorance of the city-ite is almost touching. They seem to believe that the Wylde starts at Hampstead, and anywhere west of Swindon is virgin rainforest. I know a high-powered lawyer who stood in my garden and expressed astonishment that potatoes came from underground.

At the meeting my colleagues are concerned about my journey from "The Country". When it turns out it's taken me less time to get here from Devon than it has taken them from Chiswick, Greenwich and Camden, there is a short but significant silence. "So why do you live in London, then?" I ask, perhaps a little unkindly in the circumstances. "Tve forgotten," is

Time Out, every word. Great stuff to do! So this is why people live in London! Although perhaps not if I'm to believe the twentysomething publicist in the cab with me. "I thought London people went to the theatre every night," she says, "and talked about exhibitions all the time. Then I moved here and found they all go home to Hammersmith and play Ludo."

I decide to do some culture. I choose a flamenco performance and phone for tickets on my jaded friend's mobile. It's sold out. I walk, dismally, to see a movie instead, and in spite of the fact that it's OK, I feel somehow cheated. That's the trouble with London, someone always seems to be having a better time in the restaurant that you didn't book, or with the theatre tickets that you couldn't buy.

I climb on the train home, exhausted and dissatisfied, like child who threw up on the waltzers and the dodgems. London can be a great ride, but who wants to live in an amusement park?

he finds it ideal for keeping large animals, and it looks good from passing trains. Just don't ask him to go there...

City-dweller Andrew Mueller has nothing against the country:



or the huddled masses who inhabit Britain's big cities, a move to the countryside is as common a daydream as a functioning public transport system. We see the advertisements in the property sections of the Sunday papers, we calculate that for the price of our modest inner-city apartment we could buy a sprawling estate with servants' quarters, helipad and dolphinarium, and the reverie commences: luxuriant green countryside instead of chaotic, claustrophobic urban squalor, the shricks and wails of car alarms replaced by the twittering of distant song birds; the looming menace of shell-suited

farming folk around the welcoming hearth of the thatched village pub. space and peace. We rarely, in the grip of our absurd rustic dementia, stop to think about their corollaries - mud and boredom and then we get off the train and find ourselves confronted with terrifying immensities of both. This week, I tooled about three poky settlements in Gloucester-shire, all of which were the kind of places

glue-sniffers beside the bus shelter ex-

changed for the genial company of stout

that you can imagine were forced to close their zoos when the chicken died. Granted, the tiny towns were kind of cute - twee little clusters of quaint sandstone cottages of the sort that we city folk generally assume only exist next to model trains, on the cover of Horse & Hound magazine, or in the imagination of Thomas Hardy. The problem was that they shared another primary characteristic with model trains, Horse & Hound and Tess of the D'Urbervilles - they were insufferably, unbelievably, eye-wateringly, fist-chewingly boring. On the front page of the local paper, a breathlessly written story told of the de-

light of some hairy-handed yokel who had

recently received a letter from Australia that had taken only 34 hours from posting to delivery. While we are accustomed to making jokes about the people in places like this pointing at aeroplanes, it is staggering to contemplate that they may not even have heard of them.

Partly to try to get into the spirit of my rural odyssey, but mostly for want of anything else to do. I resolved to go for the proverbial long walk in the country. I swiftly discovered that there are two sorts of country walk. One is where you walk along the side of the main road, placing

The towns were cute, but insufferably, unbelievably, eye-wateringly, fistchewingly boring

yourself at the mercy of speeding lorries feeling for grip on the damp Tarmac and the slavering dogs in the gardens of roadside properties (it says everything about the people who live out here that with countless acres to choose from, they build next to the highway - my flat off Hackney Road is quieter than any of the villages I visited). The other country walk is the one where you depart the main road for the designated walking paths - which, when the merest moisture settles upon them, degenerate into gurgling quagmires capable of swallowing troops, horses and cannon. Still, there's all that lovely fresh air. Not when you're sinking up to your knees in swamp next to a cattle run, there isn't. The truth is that I can experience all the joys of country living, such as they are, with-

out leaving London. If I want to look at trees I can go to a park, and should I crave the company of quacking waterfowl and malodorous ruminants, there's a city farm on the next block. To spend time in the country is to forsake film and music drinkable cappuccino and carbonara sauce that doesn't have tinned corn in it, to wonder whether "Pub open 7pm-9pm" is an ad-

vertisement or a local newspaper headline. When I was hungry, I could not even buy a sandwich. "We close at two o'clock." harrumphed an irritable young man with eyebrows on his cheeks, and informed me that the nearest open restaurant "at this hoocourrrrr" was in the next town along the road – a three-mile walk away. I plodded wearly off into the mist, grudgingly grateful for a round trip that would consume at least half of an otherwise agon-

Singly vacant alternoon. The country is where our forebears lived when everybody dwelt in mud huts, ate hay and worshipped the sun, and is no place for the enlightened human being. A survey of the great civilisations of history -Carthage, Athens, Rome, Constantinople, Florence, Paris, Vienna, London, Washington -yields one common thread: cities. Cities were created so that man might live a life of comfort and grace, and while it doesn't always work out that way - the train up to the Cotswolds passed through Swindon, for example - we urbanites are at least in with a chance.

This should not be construed as a suggestion that the country does not have a role to play. We have to keep cows, make television melodramas and send tourists somewhere, and our green and pleasant land makes a terrific view out of the window of the train as you glide from the lights and sounds of one bright, bustling centre of culture, commerce and entertainment to another.

The game's up for young Tom

"DAD." My son Tom said the three or four games of other day, "if you were a boy I wouldn't like you." My immediate reaction was, naturally enough, to feel hurt. But I was also

I walk across

Trafalgar Square.

puzzled. Had he found a particularly nasty way of phrasing the old commonplace that you don't choose your family? Or was he trying to tell me something worse, that he liked me only out of duty, because I was his father? So, trying not to betray my feelings, I asked him

"Well, I know lots of boys who are just like you must have been when you were 11," he explained. "They're all mad about sport - and I hate them."

I knew instantly what he meant - and in that instant I flipped back 30 years to find myself in short trousers, with a worn tennis ball in my pocket, ready to sprint out into the playground as soon as the bell went to mark the end of a lesson. I must have played

playground football a day, from two-a side to 20-a-side, and I can still summon the exact configuration of the goals: at one end, the recessed double-door entrance to the school hall, high enough to reward dramatic lofted shots, and at the other the wider but lower metal tank which. I now suppose, must have stored the school's supply

At that age, everyone slotted neatly into a handful of narrow categories: there were the sports-mad, a group which Tom correctly identified as mine; the swots, their noses always buried in a book; the weird musical types (Tom's own group); and the nonentities who had no particular interest or expertise. My dismissive labelling of the rival groupings was, I'm sure, reciprocated. To the more civilised swots and musicians, the sports-mad must have been sweaty, thuggish, hearty, brain-dead PARK LIFE



BRUCE MILLAR

yobs, and worse. I wouldn't go so far as agreeing with Tom that I hated all the boys outside my group; we simply ignored each other, having no common language or activity. Once or twice I have asked Tom what he does in break at school, because I have no conception of how a schoolboy fills up his free time if he doesn't play playing football (the answer it seems, is that he visits the library or - dread

innovation - the IT room).

Tom's little brother's

school day, by contrast, is all too easily imagined: football, football, followed by a kick-around on the common with me after school once the evenings get light enough.

Anyway, I piously told

Tom that this was an

immature and superficial way of categorising people. which he would grow out of in a year or two. By the time I left school, I assured him, most of my friends hated sport every bit as much as he does. I didn't want to complicate matters by explaining that it was a shared taste for teenage rebellion that united the sporties, swots, musicians and nonentities.

In the days that followed this conversation, to my alarm it dawned on me that perhaps I have not completely outgrown the habit of categorising people. When I learnt that a colleague absent from work was not suffering from flu or a domestic crisis with

fallen from her horse, I was deeply impressed. She was definitely, my 11-yearold self told me, someone to be admired, even if she had never played football in the playground.

Then, visiting the National Portrait Gallery, I saw a screen belonging to Lord Byron, behind which he must have changed into his nightshirt before jumping into bed with a string of conquests. On one side of this screen the serial seducer, romantic hero and aristocratic revolutionary had glued cut-out prints of his boxing heroes, on the other his favourite actresses.

Suddenly the distant and formidable figure was transformed into the sort of 11-year-old boy who adorns his bedroom wall with posters of George Best and Raquel Welch, or Ronaldo and the Spice Girls.

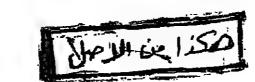
And what of other figures from history? There have always been two Henry

courtier who wandered around strumming "Greensleeves" on his lute between games of real tennis, and the hoary old Bluebeard who murdered his way through six wives. The official line is that Henry was driven to the verge of madness by his desperation to sire a son and heir, but I've always thought his decline must have been linked to the gout that ended his healthy

tennis playing. Our habits of mind and prejudices are set when we are young, so I'm sure that Tom will be wary of the sports-obsessed for the rest of his life, just as I feel immediately at ease with sports-lovers and out of my deoth in a room full of artists. But I hope that the two of us can be better than friends.

And if anyone tells me that Hitler was a brilliant left-half in his teens, or that Stalin was a junior tennis champion, I simply won't





THE WEEKEND REVIEW The Independent 27 February 1999

Gerald 'Bounce' Gregory

TODAY'S TEENYBOP and rhythm 'n' blues acts may include several vocalists but none (not even Dru Hill or Another Level) are organised along the traditional lines of the doo-wop groups of the Fifties with a lead, one or two tenors, a baritone and, most famously, a bass singer. Gerald "Bounce" Gregory hit the distinctive low notes on the Spaniels' 1950s classic "Goodnite Sweetheart Goodnite".

While the seminal recording was eclipsed by the McGuire Sisters' cover which reached the US Top Ten, film-makers know that the Spaniels' original version gives the true flavour of the period. "Goodnite Sweetheart Goodnite" is thus one of the gerns featured on the soundtracks of George Lucas's American Groffiti (the original Fifties nostalgia movie of 1973) and Floyd Mutrux's American Hot Wax (the 1976 biopic of the American DJ Alan Freed who coined the expression rock 'n' roll). Indeed, over the course of a 25-year career, the Spaniels proved a more versatile and prolific harmony group than the Crests, the Del-Vikings, the Diamonds, the Heartbeats, the Moonglows and the Monotones who faded away into obscurity.

Born in 1934, Gerald Gregory attended the Roosevelt High School in Gary, Indiana, where fellow students nicknamed him "Bounce" for his uncanny ability to make his incredibly low voice resonate around the corridors. Soon, Gregory, Ernest Warren (1st tenor), Willie C. Jackson (2nd tenor) and Opal Courtney Jnr (baritone) were blending their delicate harmonies and emotive singing in the glee club and on street corners. They talked another pupil, the talented vocalist James "Pookie" Hudson, into joining them as lead tenor and named their fiedgling vocal ensemble Pookie Hudson and the Hudsonaires.

In 1952, the quintet's performance at a local Christmas talent concert went down a storm, though Gregory's young wife was heard muttering that they sounded like a bunch of dogs. The Spaniels' name stuck; perhaps it was better than the various birds, flowers or makes of cars favoured by the likes of the

Ravens, the Laurels or the Edsels. Further bookings at local hops followed and, in the spring of 1953, the

performance in a Gary record store belonging to the DJ Vivian Carter and her husband Jimmy Bracken. The couple had aiready thought about starting their own label and were so impressed by the outfit that they toyed with the idea of calling their new imprint Spaniel. Eventually, they plumped for the initials of their Christian names and set up Vee Jay

Records in neighbouring Chicago. On 4 May 1953, the Spaniels became the first act to record for Vee-Jay, cutting two Hudson-Gregory compositions, "Baby It's You" and "Bounce", at Universal Recording Studio in Chicago. Ironically, they had to settle for the catalogue number Vee-Jay 101 as the bluesman Jimmy Reed jumped the queue. Leased to the Chance label, "Baby It's You" reached the Top Ten in the R&B charts and, in September 1953, the Spaniels recorded two follow-up singles, "The Bells Ring Out/House Cleaning" and the perennial ballad "Goodnite Sweetheart Goodnite".

Written by Hudson and Calvin Carter, Vivian's brother who had joined the company as A&R man, "Goodnite Sweetheart Goodnite" owes much of its appeal to Gregory's basso profundo uttering the immortal duh-duh. dit, duh-duh. In fact, the track is so distinctive because the Spaniels were pioneering a new technique, using two microphones, one picking up the lead while the remaining vocalists gathered around the second.

Dave Marsh, the Rolling Stone journalist and compiler of The Heart of Rock and Soul: the 1001 greatest and Elvis Presley got in on the act.

singles ever made, considers "Good-

couple thousand times you hear it, the the next couple thousand, it seems like it must be the harmonies. After that, you realise it's that slow, sololing bass voice,

really deep, which makes the record.

nite Sweetheart Goodnite"

Fellow students nicknamed him 'Bounce'

for his ability to make his incredibly

low voice resonate around the corridors

Simple yet effective, the Spaniels' Pictures" were only regional hits



That I CA

The Spaniels harmony group, clockwise from the top: Gregory, James 'Pookie' Hadson, Ernest Warren, Willie C. Jackson and Calvin Carter Michael Ochs / Redferns

Thirty in 1954 despite competition in briefly to replace Opal Courtney, from the pop version by the McGuire Sisters. In these segregated times, the vocal trio started the trend of white artists covering R&B hits which snowballed when Pat Boone

The Spaniels should have capi-

talised on their early success. They

played the Apollo Theatre in New

ing into their live act. But, try as they

might, following up "Goodnite Swee-

heart Goodnite" proved a problem.

"Let's Make Up" and "You Painted

who had been called up in the army. Several personnel changes fol-lowed, briefly leaving Gerald Gregory at the beim as the sole founding

member of a Spaniels line up which headlined the 1956 VeeJay cavalcade of stars alongside the El-Dorados, the Dells and the Magnificents. Later that year, Hudson rejoined the group now also comprising James "Dimples" Cochran (baritone), Carl Rainge and Donald Porter (both tenors). The quintet soldiered on, record-

ing many more sides such as the poignant "(You Gave Me) Peace of Mind", the gorgeous "You're Gorma Cry", the nonsensical "Great Googley Moo" and the uptempo "Everyone's Laughing", the group's last pop hit in 1957. Further compounding their run York with Joe Turner, toured with the of bad buck, the Ravens turned down Drifters and even worked tapdanc- the chance to do "The Twist". Sharing the bill in Washington with the Nightingales, a gospel group, Hudson was offered the infectious ditty but passed it on to Hank Ballard, whose version was in turn overshadowed by group gave an impromptu a cappella cool teen song reached the US Top and, in 1955, Calvin Carter stepped Chubby Checker's rendition.

Ravens until 1960 when "I Know" became their swansong on the VeeJay label. (The first large independent record company owned by black Americans, well before Berry Gordy's Tamia Motown, it went on to release the Beatles' early recordings in North America after Capitol had passed on the option.) The bass singer often re-joined "Pookie" Hudson, who led various line-ups of the Ravens recording for Parkway, Buddah and North American (1970). In 1991, they were awarded the Pioneer Award from

the Rhythm 'n' Blues Foundation of the Smithsonian Institute. "Goodnite Sweetheart Goodnite" by Sha-Na-Na, Chuck Berry, Bing Crosby, Dean Martin and even Mantovari.

PIERRE PERRONE

Gerald Gregory, singer, songwriter, born Gary, Indiana 1934; married; died Gary 12 February 1999.

Professor Charles Shute

hridge University colleague Peter Lewis, created pioneering maps of the cholinergic pathways - the pathways in the brain which carry the chemical acetycholine, which with noradrenaline was thought to influence brain activity in the rat brain. Their work set a precedent for the creation of maps of a whole range of chemicals within the brain, and thereby placed the emerging discipline of psychopharmacology on a

sound footing. Shute was enigmatic, highly intelligent and, for much of his life, a restless man. For someone like myself who knew him best during his time as a mature scientist, his early life was a mystery. One knew that he had been educated at Eton; the occasional wearing of the tie on formal occasions and the languid voice attested to that But one was unaware that he had been isolated from his parents since the age of two, and of the startling fact that his mother had married six times.

He entered King's College, Cam-bridge, as an Exhibitioner in Mathematics, but he read English, and switched to philosophy ("Moral Sciences", as it was called) in his final year 1939. He was a conscientious objector in the Second World War, and served with the Friends' Ambulance Service, whence arose the interest in medicine.

He then returned to Cambridge as a medical student, completing his course at the Middlesex Hospital in 1946, where he remained for two further years as a surgical resident. National Service with the Royal Army Medical Corps involved specialisation in ear, nose and broat work

Gregory continued with the That interest continued when, in 1951, he joined the anatomy department at the London Hospital Medical College where his head of department was the formidable Professor James Dixon Boyd. Shute worked initially with Angus Bellairs on the comparative anatomy of the bones of the jaw and the ear, trac-ing the evolution of jaw bones into the tiny ossicles of the mammalian middle ear.

The following year, Dixon Boyd moved to Cambridge to become Professor of Anatomy, and Shute went with him.

Medical and veterinary students Gregory last performed with the in the Sixties were mystified at the Ravens in December 1998 but his emphasis placed in elementary inimitable bass-line lives on in the anatomy courses on amphibian and original and the myriad versions of reptilian jaw-bones, enthusiastically taught by Shute as if the subject were, in modern terminology, "corematerial". It was years before I understood why this recondite stuff had been presented to us: Shute was keen to share his enthusiasms with any audience, especially, perhaps, a captive one.

For many, his enthusiasm was inlections Research students from the Commonwealth left Cambridge to teach anatomy all over the world; I found it poignant, when visiting Sierra Leone as an external examiner in 1991, to discover medical students in Freetown struggling to remember the names of the reptilian jaw bones that their Professor. the late Adesanya Grillo, must himself have learned from Shute some 35 years earlier.

In the late Fifties, Shute's research moved in a different direction. He teamed up with Peter Lewis, a self-effacing Oxford-trained chemist who had proved a valuable partner a contemplative life in a succession to Richard Keynes in elegant exof religious houses, in Citeaux, Tamié and in 1991, after two and a periments on ion movements across half years as a hermit in the eastthe squid nerve fibre. When Lewis came to Anatomy, Dixon Boyd encouraged him to develop new techniques in histochemistry - the study of the localisation of specific chemicals in organic tissues.

Shute and Lewis together developed a method for staining acetylcholinesterase in slices of brain tissue, the enzyme which destroys acetylcholine, the first-discovered neurotransmitter. Shute wrote later: "In student days I was inspired by the work of my teacher and supervisor Dr W. Feldberg on release of acetylcholine by nerve endings on muscle, and since that time I have hoped that cholinergic nerves might also be shown to occur wholly within the central nervous system. "

Although Shute himself acknowledged that the initial staining technique was "not completely specific" for cholinergic pathways, the work was later validated when they developed a method for detecting a more specific enzyme concerned in

the synthesis of acetycholine. Shufe was keen to break down the barriers between the study of structure and function, both in research and in teaching. This created tensions between himself and colleagues of a more conservative temperament. When, in the early Seventies, as Faculty Board Chairman, he attempted to modernise the medical curriculum (so radically as to bring it to a state that the General Medical Council would now regard as antediluvian), he initially failed to

He had by then moved to a Chair sons, one daughtert; died Gualtieri Laboratory, where conversations It was not his excesses or eccen- Sicumino, Italy 21 February 1999. with visual physiologists such as 2 January 1999.

CHARLES SHUTE, with his Cam- Fergus Campbell sparked an interest in a phenomena involving colour vision, the McCollough Effect, which Shute described as "one of the most extraordinary and mysterious of all visual phenomena". He probed the phenomenon, hoping to establish it as a marker of changing levels of activity in chemically characterised neural pathways.

Again Shute wanted undergraduates to share in his enthusiasms, and what might have been conventional histology classes were dominated by rat brains stained for acetylcholinesterase, together with plentiful demonstrations of his beloved McCollough Effect; students, by then less reticent, would ask, "Do we really have to know this?"

Shute also took an interest in other optical curiosities, and wrote in the journal Weather on the "blue moon phenomenon" and "the formation of a glory". These activities all harmonise with Shute's dedication of his monograph The McCollough Effect (1979) "to all those who love to observe, measure, calculate and think"

Shute was first married in 1947 to Patricia Doran, who died in 1952. He was then married for 26 years to Wendy Harwood, and they had a son and three daughters. It was an un-conventional household – full of strong characters who were often enormous fun, but who also could be a bit of a handful. After a divorce in 1980, he married Gay Robins, who was the Wallis Budge Research Fellow in Egyptology at Christ's College, where Shute had been a Fellow since 1957.

This relationship kindled in Shute an enthusiasm for Egyptology which went far beyond dabbling. The Egyptologist Professor Harry Smith, a Fellow at Christ's in the Sixties, recalls that, after retiring from his Cambridge professorship, "Shute threw himself heart and mind into Gay's Egyptological and arthistorical interests.

They collaborated on papers on topics ranging from "human stature as revealed by prehistoric Egyptian skeletons - in which Shute's expert knowledge of human anatomy was crucial - through various aspects of sculpture and painting to the influence of Egyptian Wisdom texts on Greek literature".



Schute: The blue moon phenomenon' and other curiosities

Their work on the ancient Egyptian canon of proportion revived Shute's early interest in mathematics, and together, in 1987, they published a new analysis of the arithmetical problems in the famous Rhind Mathematical Papyrus at the British Museum, which has become a standard work

His wife's appointment to a post in ancient art history at Emory Uni-versity led to their removal to Atlanta, Georgia, where Shute spent the last 10 years of his life fruitfully and happily conducting tours round the galleries of ancient art at Emory University Museum and collaborating in his wife's researches which, to his joy, led to her promotion to a full professorship in 1998.

To the end, he maintained his dry wit, his incisiveness of mind and exceptional range of interests in the natural sciences and the humanities

After the move, Charles Shute returned to England only seldom, and my last sight of him was in his seventies walking hand-in-hand with Gay through the streets of

ALAN FINDLAY

Charles Cameron Donald Shute. histologist and Egyptologist; born London 23 May 1917; otologist, Royal Army Medical Corps 1947-19; Demonstrator and Lecturer in Anatomy, London Hospital Medical College 1951-52; University Demonstrator and Lecturer in Anatomy, Cambridge University 1952-69; Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge 1957-99; Professor of Histology, Department of Physiology, Cambridge University 1969-84 (Emeritus); married 1947 Patricia Cameron (died 1952), 1954 Wendy Harwood (one son, three daughters; marriage dissolved 1980), 1980 Gay Robins, died Atlanta, Georgia

Fr Jacques Loew

began work in the docks at Mar- this "apostolic work" was the only seilles in 1941, he could little imag- correct way for the French church ine that his example would be followed by hundreds of other a reappraisal of the priest's vocation.

His audacious move - he had been sent by his fellow Dominican Father Lebret to study the condition of the working classes, not to join it - spawned the worker priest movement, whose pioneers sought to minister to France's secularised took up work in such places as car factories to experience the everyday life of those they ministered to.

who sought out Loew was a young Polish priest, Father Karol Wojtyla, who was inspired by the new approach to ministry. "Father Loew came to the conclusion that the [Dominican] white habit by itself does not say anything any more today," the fature Pope John Paul II wrote on his return. "Living among

"to reach its non-believers".

But by the early 1950s the Vatican abrupt halt in 1954.

A disappointed Loew bowed to the One visitor to Marseilles in 1947 Vatican's instruction and quit his job, though he remained convinced that in spite of the problems, the movement had provided an effective pastoral ministry. "Of course a priest can belong to a trade union." he maintained. "This does not mean selling

French Catholic priests and lead to was becoming alarmed at the worker-priests' growing role in left-wing self to this work. politics and what it saw as their abandonment of the traditional priestly way of life. In May 1951 Loew sent a long report defending the movement's work to Giovanni Montini, the Vatican's assistant secretary of state and future Pope Paul VL But industrial working class. Priests Pope Pius XII was unrelenting and brought the experiment to an

> out your priesthood." He did not abandon his commitment. The following year he estab-

WHEN FATHER Jacques Loew of them." Wojtyla was certain that Mission to Workers, which continued the mission among the working classes and devoted itself to training priests from among their number. The Dominican Order released Loew from its ranks to commit him-

Born in 1908, the only child in a family of non-believers of Protestant origin, Loew came to faith when he was 20 and, after first training as a lawyer, decided to enter the Dominican Order in 1934. He was ordained a Dominican priest in 1939. It was in his work at the Marseilles docks that he first had an inkling of what would become his vocation. "It was my contact with flesh-and-blood people that was my real training," he later recalled.

Loew's ministry was not confined to France. After establishing the Saints Peter and Paul Mission he visited Africa before moving to Brazil in 1964 to work in the shanty towns of São Paulo, where he intended to spend the rest of his life. However by 1969 he was back in workers he decided to become one lished the Saints Peter and Paul Europe and established the School



Loew: Spawned the worker-

of Faith in the Swiss town of Fribourg. "There was a need to educate the educators of the communities." he explained.

By now Loew was well-known for his ministry and for his many chronique de la mission Saints Pierre et Poul (1971) and, in English, Face to Face with God: the Bible's way to prayer (1977). In 1971 Pope Paul VI invited him to preach the Lenten retreat in the Vatican. As old age approached he re-treated from the world, following

ern Pyrenees, he went to live in a community of Trappist nuns at Echourgnae in Périgord. "For my retirement I wanted to share a life of silence and prayer," he said. Despite his sometimes turbulent life, Loew remained committed to his mission as a priest at the service of the community. "A priest is neither

yellow, nor red, nor green, nor violet." he coce said. "He is a man of God." FELIX CORLEY

Jacques Loew, priest: born Clerbooks, including Les dockers de mont-Ferrand, France 1908; Marseille (1944), Un mission pro-ordained priest 1939; died Echaurlétarienne (1946), Les Cient ouverts: grace, France 13 February 1999.

Giuseppe Avarna

OF HIS many eccentricities, Giuseppe Avarna's passion for bells will be his best remembered: with affection by his neighbours in the Sicilian hamlet of Gualtieri Sicaminò and with bitterness by his family.

Giuseppe Avarna, Duke of Gualtieri, Marquis of Castania, Baron of Sicamino, began ringing the bells of the deconsecrated church where he met and fell in love with Tava Dhaviz, an American air hostess 40 years his junior. He rang them each time he had sex with her, knowing that they would be clearly audible and infuriating - to his estranged wife, who lived with their three children in the Avarna family castle next door.

provocation by suing Avarno for of most of his huge estate, with 950 publicity, the duke continued the rit- state, in the land reforms of 1955. ual as confirmation of the special privileges he believed he enjoyed as mantic duke - his mind always one of the last of Sicily's old-style no- more on poetry than practicalities bility, the pleasure-loving aristocracy portrayed by Giuseppe Tommasi he sold remaining family de Lampedusa in his 1958 master- assets to finance his jet-set life

he lived more than 20 years ago, after piece Il Gattopardo (The Leopard). style, or gave them away to friends. glorious history: his grandfather became a close friend of the Emperor had rebuilt in 1944 from a print of the Franz Jozef when posted to Vienna as original building only to have to build Italian ambassador, while one great- a third version after the second uncle was the last prime minister of went up in smoke in 1981. In recent

the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. Avarna was born into this old Si-second wife, who spent all but one

The duchess responded to the cilian family in 1916, but was relieved disturbing the peace. In a blaze of hectares being confiscated by the What the state didn't take, the ro--allowed to slip through his fingers: Avarna's family boasts a long and Art works and archives were filched from the castle which the duke had

years, he lived on the salary of his

week a month working in the Unit-tricities which led to Avarna's death, ed States.

Days before his death, Avarna announced that he intended to run in this spring's Italian presidential elections. Avarna did not, as he well knew, stand a chance. The provocation was, howfighting a public court battle recently with one of his sons whom, he arpieces of family furniture: the case was won on the basis of photographs surreptitiously taken by the duke himself. He was similarly determined to court will hear this case in April.

but a wood-burning stove he had left on all night to warm his chapel pieda terre. All that survived the blaze were the family standard flying from the first floor, and the perimeter walls, on which Avarna had painted ever, typical-be had no qualities about his last poem to the second duchess. His cherished family archives met their end with the duke, as did reams gued, had purioused some valuable of unpublished poetry.

ANNE HANLEY

Giuseppe Averna, Duke of Gualtieri, Marquis of Castania, win over the opposition. prevent his offspring from selling the Baron of Sicamina, landowner. family eastle to the local council a born 1916; twice married (three in Histology in the Physiological THE WILLS DELVIS

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rles Shute

A FOUNDER member of the Merce the state of the state of the state of Cunningham Dance Company, the 理論 関係等が、公共の はらくは dancer Viola Farber had a unique presence on stage which Cunningham exploited in several important pieces. This came not only from her taliness,

Inis came not only Bour Har Salaring long limbs and cropped hair, but from a pronounced ranginess in her movement. "She had a big reach, and always looked as though she was grasping space, reaching right out to its edges," says the British choreographer Richard Alston. This quality informed her own choreography, while her passion for dancing made her an outstanding and influential teacher

She was born in Heidelberg, Germany, in 1931. Aged seven, she emigrated with her family to the United States and six years later became an American citizen. She was a music student at American University, Washington DC; then went to Black Mountain College, North Carolina, where she studied music with Lou Harrison and dance with Katherine Litz. It was here, in 1952, that she met Merce Cunningham and his collaborator, the composer John Cage, during one of Cunningham's visits to teach. The following summer she was one of the dancers who formed the early Merce Cumpingham Dance Company.

She was a member of the company for 12 years, producing a vivid impact in roles created for her. In the comic Antic Meet (1958) she had a remarkable solo, fall of sudden changes of direction and filigree movements of the feet. during which she carried a beautifully fantastical umbrells, opened, with Christmas tree lights inside, designed by Robert Rauschenberg. Often her ports required her to dance a duet with Cunningham - this despite the fact that partnering Farber, Cunningham said, was like partnering two people simultaneously. "Once she said to me,

never worry!"

Their duet in the tranquil and mysterious Nocturne (1958) was one of the most lyrical and tender he has ever made, an effect enhanced by the vaporous white net material (another Rauschenberg design), which Farber wore like a hood. Crises (1960) opened with another Cunningham-Farber duet, during which Farber's body seemed impelled by violent dislocations. At one point the two dancers balf-crawled, half-slid along the floor side by side, Cunningham propelling her by pushing her arm. "Her body often had the look of one part being in balance, and the rest extremely off," Cunningham said. "Now and again it was like two persons, another just ahead or behind the first."

Paired (1964) consisted of a duet in which Cumingham and Farber's sequence of events was decided during performance. The events were colourcued, the cue sheet was off-stage and the dancers had intermittently to smear different coloured paint on each other. We tried doing it without a cue sheet but couldn't remember what colour referred to what movement and what had been done and what was left to do." Curningham said. "It was a violent dance. Once she kicked me in the forehead, another time I dropped her head on the floor, and again we cracked heads." During her years with Cummingham,

Viola Farber



don't worry, I'll get there, and I said, I Farber was one of the dancers who formed the Merce Cunningham Dance Company Douglas H. Jeffery

Farber also danced for other choreographers, including Paul Taylor and Katherine Litz. She left Cunningham in 1965 and formed the Viola Farber Dance Company three years later as a showcase for her own idiosyncratic choreography. Like Cunningham she favoured juxtaposing disparate activities, transforming gesture into a dance

language alongside more formal steps. "My dances report what I see," she

She enjoyed high esteem in France

where in 1971 she and Jeff Slayton, her

dance partner and then husband, won

a gold medal at the Ninth Internation-

choreographic commissions from 1977 to 1979 for the Ballet Théâtre Contemporain in Angers and the Ballet Théâtre Français in Nancy, she became artistic director of Anger's Centre National de Danse Contemporaine in 1981. There she formed a company of 16 dancers, for whom she made a dozen pieces. She also established a centre in Paris for training dance teachers.

From 1984 to 1987 she lived in Lononce said. "They are my response to the don, teaching at London Contemporary

and abroad, especially in France.

tres. Her last stage appearance was in 1995, in a duet called Threestep (Shipwreck), created with Ralph Lemon, a former student, for his company's season at the Joyce Theatre in New York. Her formidable achievement in later

years was as a teacher. "She was one of the greats," says Richard Alston. "She had a huge following and when I was a student in New York her classes were packed. She had a huge influence on the and Siobhan Davies (the British choreographer]. We were both thunderstruck by her classes, I decided to change my dancing and never to do Graham technique again. Really, she changed my life."

Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Let-

NADINE MEISNER

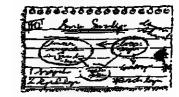
Viola Farber, dancer, choreographer, teacher: born Heidelberg, Germany way everything is mixed up together in. Dance School; in 1988 she returned to 25 February 1931; founder member, this world - people and microbes and the United States to become the direc-Merce Cunningham Dance Company 1953-65; founder member, Viola Farber elephants, cassowary birds." Some- tor of dance at Sarah Lawrence College times she used classical music, some- in Bronxville, New York, But she con-Dance Company 1968-85; artistic times she worked with contemporary tinued to work as a guest teacher and director, Centre National de Danse composers. (She herself was an ac-choreographer for companies in the US Contemporaine, Angers 1981-83; teacher. London Contemporary In 1992 she collaborated with the Dance School 1984-87; director, dance French choreographer Mathilde Mondepartment, Sarah Lawrence College, nier on a piece, Ainsi de suite, shown Bronzville 1988-99; married 1971 Jeff in Avignon, Paris and Brest. Recently Slayton (marriage dissolved 1980);

died New York 24 December 1998.

been discovered in prehistoric remains and Egyptian mummies – as a great biller it burst on to the European scene with the industrial revolution. The England of caused by his father.

> recognisable everywhere. The disease was often described as "white" - the white plague, the white death, the white killer - and this was

To the European middle classes, who barely existed at the beginning of the tuberculous century and very the island where Venus nearly ruled the world by taught ber acolytes the art of



MEDICAL NOTES

THOMAS DORMANDY

Youth goes pale and spectre thin, then dies

COMPARED TO political, economic, social, cultural and even climatic history, all tirelessly mined by professional historians, little is known about the diseases of the past. Yet they affected the lives of millions in two different ways. The diseases themselves often changed historic events. But more pervasive, though even more difficult to document, were the widely perceived images of the illnesses, some close reflections of reality, others recognisable but transformed by popular

imagination. Of no affliction was this more true than of tuberculosis. Though undoubtedly ancient - evidence of it has Keats, Shelley, and the boy Dickens led the way, as she did in steam power and manufacturing industry, but soon the images of consumption were instantly

more than a reference to the pallor associated with chronic blood loss.

the end of it, tuberculosis posed an ethical conundrum. The illnesses and deaths of old people could be represented as natural phenomena, essential for the survival of the species. Illnesses in middle age too could sometimes be seen as just retributions for profligate or provise living. the sins of the fathers being

visited on the sons.

At the other extreme of hite a horrendous infant mortality was accepted as a law of nature. But tuberculosis, slowly killing the young in their prime - "where youth goes pale, and spectre thin, and dies" - crossing social barriers as well as national frontiers, needed a moral explanation. It became the image of sacrifice and atonement, Napoleon's son, the Englet, did not simply die in his gilded Austrian cage; he was consciously atoning for the blobdshed and suffering

But there was also a complementary image - or several complementary images. "Omnis phthisicus alox" every tuberculous a lecher was an off-quoted saving: and there was truth in that too. The disease struck down and often confined to bed, house or sanatorium exile young people in their procreative as well as their creative flowering, longing to perform, yet able only to dream. Watteau's infinitely

love, is a pictorial elegy to lost sexual prowess. The artist died two years later, aged 36. But above all, tuberculosis came to symbolise the long-

ing for the unattainable - for a cure in the case of patients (like Katherine Mansfield. Franz Kafka or Robert Louis Stevenson) or simply for the kind of total happiness that is granted only rarely and then only for a few fleeting seconds to ordinary mortals. The "message" of Chekhov's last and greatest plays

- all the pining and quiet desperation - sometimes puzzles literary critics: why could the three sisters. daughters of the valiant General Protorov, not do the practical and the obvious and simply take the train to Moscow? After Ivanov tuberculosis is never mentioned by name in any of the texts, just as it was rarely mentioned in the correspondence of sanatorium patients; but pining was exactly what Chekhov himself and countless fellow tuberculous did in their remote Yaltas; and quiet desperation was their destiny.

But even in desperation there was always hope and, as they went on hoping to the end, and often in a breathless hurry, an astonishing number created some of the greatest works of art, music and literature.

Thomas Dormandy is the sad Departure for Cythera, author of The White Death: a history of tuberculosis',

GAZETTE

al Dance Festival in Paris. Following the French government appointed her

'It was a violent dance. She kicked me

in the forehead. I dropped her head on the

floor, and again we cracked heads'

BIRTHS. **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

1000

MEMORIAL SERVICES

TANNER: A Memorial Service for Professor Tony Tanner will be held in King's College Chapel, Cambridge, at 2.50pm on Saturday 6 March 1999.

IN MEMORIAM

NANDI: Always in our thoughts, Rosemarie Nandi, died 28 Feb-ruary 1998, and Bankim Chan-dra Nandi, died 15 December 1990, M.B., PA., S.W., PN.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS are charged at £6.50

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

TODAY: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am, TOMORROW: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 10am; No 7 Company Coldstream Guards mounts the Queen's Guard. at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Coldstream Guards.

BIRTHDAYS

complished planist.)

TODAY: Mr Frank Allaun, journalist and former MP, 86; Mr Paddy Ashdown MP, leader Liberal Democrats. 58; Sir Michael Butler, former diplomat, and chairman, Pathway Group, 72; Mr Peter De Vries, novelist, 89; Sir Peter Emery MP, 73; Viscount Head, former racehorse trainer, 62; Professor Brian Heap, Master, St Edmund's College, Cambridge, 64; Mr Alan Jinkinson, former general secretary, Unison, 64; Mrs Fiona Jones MP, 42; Mr Mervyn Jones, writer, 77; Mr Edward Lucie-Smith, poet and art critic, 66; Mr lan McGarry, general secretary, British Actors' Equity Association, 58; Professor Sir Donald Mackay, chairman, Pieda pic, 62; Mr Geoffrey Maitland Smith, chairman, Hammerson plc, 66; Mr George Marwick, . Lord-Lieutenant of Orkney, 67; Mr Ralph Nader, writer and consumer activist, 65; Rabbi Julia Neuberger, 49; Mr Graeme Pollock, former South African cricketer, 55; Mr Alberto Remedios. operatic tenor, 64; Mr Gene Sarazen, golfer, 97; Professor Roger Scruton, writer and philosopher, 55; Mr Magnus MacDonald Shearer, former Lord-Lieutenant of Shetland, 75; Dame Antoinette Sibley, prima ballerina, 60; Sir John

Skehel, director, National

Institute for Medical

Research, 58; Sir Andrew Sloan, former Chief Constable of Strathclyde, 68; Mr Timothy Spall, actor, 42; Mr Kenzo Takada, Japanese fashion designer, 60; Miss Elizabeth Taylor, actress, 67; Air Chief Marshal Sir Sandy Wilson, former Air Member for Personnel and Air Aide-de-Camp to the Queen, 58; Miss Joanne Woodward, actress, 68; Lord Young of Graffham, chair-

man, Young Associates, 67.

TOMORROW: Mr Peter Alliss, golfer and television commentator, 68; Sir Philip Bailbache, Bailiff of Jersey, 53; Sir Peter Baxendell, for mer chairman, Hawker Siddeley, 74; Miss Stephanie Beacham, actress, 50; Mr Alfred Burke, actor, 81; Mr John Carson, actor, 72; Mr Robin Cook MP, Foreign Secretary, 53; Maj-Gen Edwin Foxton, 85; Lord Garel-Jones, former MP, 58; Mrs Helen Grindrod QC, former Crown Court Recorder, 63; Sir Anthony Havelock-Allan, film producer, 95; Admiral Sir Peter Herbert, former chairman, SSAFA, 70; Maj-Gen Michael Hobbs, retiring director, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, 62; Professor Maxwell Irvine, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Birmingham University, 60; Professor Thomas Kempner, business studies authority, 69; Mr Jeremy Lancaster, chairman and managing director, Wolseley-Hughes,

63; Mr Barry McGuigan, boxer, 38; Mr George Malcolm, musician, 82; Mr Martin Marriott, former Headmaster, Canford School, 67; Mr Brian Moore, football commentator, 67; Mr Robin Phillips, actor and director, 57; Mr Peter Stothard, editor of The Times, 48; Sir John Swire, Honorary President, John Swire and Sons.

72; Sir Brian Urquhart, former United Nations official, 80; Vice-Admiral Sir James Weatherall, Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps, 63; Sir Michael Young-Herries, former chairman, Royal Bank of Scotland Group, 76.

ANNIVERSARIES

TODAY Births: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, poet, 1807; Dame Ellen Alicia Terry, actress, 1847; Enrico Caruso, operatic tenor, 1873; John Ernst Steinbeck, writer, 1902. Deaths: Joan Greenwood, actress, 1987; Lillian Gish (Lillian Diana de Guiche), actress, 1993. On this day: the British Labour Party was founded, with Ramsay Mac-Donald as secretary, 1900; the Gulf War ended after Iraqi troops retreated and Kuwait was liberated, 1991. Today is the Feast Day of St Alnoth, St Anne Line, St Baldomerius or Galmier, St Gabriel Possenti, St Herefrith of Louth, St John of Gorze, Saints Julian, Cronion, Besas and Eunus, St

Leander of Seville and St

Births: Michel Eyquem de film director, 1913. Deaths: Francisco de Zurbaran. painter, 1664; Henry James, novelist, 1916; Ruby Ethel Keeler, actress, singer and dancer, 1993. On this day: John Wesley signed the "deed of declaration" of the British troops left India, Day of The Martyrs of the Plague at Alexandria, St Hilarus, pope, St Lupicinus, St Oswald of Worcester, St Proterius and St Romanus.

SIR WILLIAM

A Service of Thanksgiving for the Life and Work of Sir William Mars-Jones MBE will be held in Gray's Inn Chapel, London WC1, on

A Memorial Meeting to cele-

Thalelaeus the Hermit.

Montaigne, essayist, 1533; Sir John Tenniel, artist and illustrator, 1820; Vicente Minelli, Wesleyan faith, 1784; the last 1948. Tomorrow is the Feast

MARS-JONES

Monday 1 March 1999 at 5pm

PETER COTES

brate the life of Peter Cotes (1912-1998), Theatre Director and Writer, will be held at 3pm on Monday 22 March 1999, at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1. All invited

Violent hatred and the soft suburban soul

THIS COLUMN in this week such people. I had even read the Stephen Lawrence report. I had started jotting down a few notes beforehand, looking for something fresh among the usual church platitudes about raciai prejudice. Then a copy of the report arrived: two pink telephone directories full of violent hatred and bureaucratic excuses. And now I'm writing something quite different. What I had expected to say

was that racism was indeed deeply ingrained in our society, and that this was hardly surprising given human nature and the slow speed at which communities adapt themselves to new influences. But all this seemed hopelessly irenic when I started to look at the report. I read it in unusual circumstances: sitting in the audience of a charity concert at which my daughter was singing, held in a church decked with Lenten banners: "Have mercy on us Lord, for we have sinned." It seemed like a set-up, but the answer came out wrong. No, we haven't sinned, at least, not like that. As has now been widely re-

ported, the appendix to Sir

William Macpherson's report

contains 56 pages of a transcript from a secret surveillance video made of four of the five prime suspects. As they play with their knives, stabbing and chopping at the furniture, Neil Acourt, Gary Dobson, Luke Knight, David Norris and two other friends fill page after page with vile, raw, racist diatribe. One example suffices, from Acourt: "I reckon that every nigger should be chopped up, mate, and they should be left with nothing but fucking stumps." Nothing has been proved against these men, but as Macpherson says, "If these suspects were not involved there must have been five or six almost identical young

thugs at large on the night of 22 April 1993." I must have known that such people existed. I worked among them in an East End market. I know logically that racist attacks must have perpetrators. would occasionally have to too late. It has, of course, been cross roads to avoid gangs of denied that any of this treat-

was always going to be about excerpts from that videotape before now. And yet, reading through the whole transcript, I feel as if uncomprehending. I am encountering an alien people for the first time, certainly more alien than those people I know from ethnic minorities. Soft and suburban like the majority of British Christians, I have to admit to losing touch with this particular sub-culture. I don't want to encounter it, of course. but my religion insists that I first understand and second, do what I can to help the victims of prejudice and hatred

> FAITH & REASON

in my world.

PAUL HANDLEY

The response of the churches to the Lawrence report must confront a terrible reality which for too long has been utterly

alien to them

Another section of the report that made an impact on me was the testimony of Duwayne Brooks, Stephen's friend who witnessed the attack. I live safely in a country where the first people at the scene of a stabbing "sort of shimmled away" because they thought the victim's friend might be going to rob them; where none of the police officers attempted any first aid on the victim, despite not knowing whether his wounds were fatal or not; where Brooks, so nearly a victim himself, was not asked whether he had been hurt, but was questioned instead about any weapons he might have on him; where his information about where the gang had run When I lived in Hackney, I off to was ignored until it was

ment was because Lawrence and Brooks were black. All that can be said is that this story is familiar to other black people who have had contact with the police, not so familiar to whites.

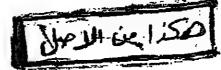
There will be time enough later on to do the individual soulsearching that middle-class liberals and their churches do when challenged with racism. The comparison with drinking might well be accurate: that my small sherries of discrimination contribute in some way to the violent, drunken, racist wreck in the underpass. But for the moment that seems selfindulgent. To quote Macpherson, the sub-culture of violent racism must be tackled head on. "A high priority must be for society to purge itself of such racist prejudice and violence.'

The talk has been that

racism can reside in the structures of an organisation though I suspect that it is, in large part, a convenient euphemism for the racist attitudes inherent in some of the people in institutions. In the Macpherson report, it is a way of apportioning a racist cause to some of the incompetence in the police handling of Stephen Lawrence's murder without directly accusing any of the individual police officers of racist attitudes and motivation (on which the testimony of Neville and Doreen Lawrence is more pointed). But this goes beyond the notion of racism being institutionalised within the assumptions and organisation of an institution. A different phrase is needed, something like corporate racism, or communal racism, to describe the chief sin of which we are all truly guilty: our failure to identify and root out the extreme and corrosive form of violent racism demonstrated by the Acourts and their friends.

This is why the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary were right to respond so quickly and so firmly to the report's findings, and why it is so vital to purge the police force of any racist elements, so that it can carry out its new anti-discriminatory tasks with vigour and the confidence of the black community. There is a way to go.

Post Gazette announcements to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, telephone 0171-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2011) or fax to 0171-293 2010. Please give a daytime telephone number.



ARTS & BOOKS

Heart of darkness

Klaus Maria Brandauer is in London to play the architect Albert Speer. And it's not the actor's first brush with the Nazi era. What's the attraction? By Daniel Rosenthal

but I cannot tell you what the talent was," That's Klaus Maria Brandauer on Albert Speer, the much-hated Nazi whom he is about to play at the Almeida Theatre, Brandauer's own talent is enormous, yet equally difficult to pin down. He gravitates nat-urally towards characters in extremis, people on the brink of murder execution or suicide. His performances are underpinned by a clear intelligence, but there's also an indefinable, elusive quality that he describes vaguely as "vision".

Speer marks Brandauer's English-language stage début. Set in East Berlin in 1980, this compelling slice of faction by the Argentine-born writer Esther Vilar presents Hitler's organisational mastermind at the age of 75. He has been brought back to Berlin's Academy of Arts where, from 1938 to 1941, he and the Führer planned their monumental capital city, Germania, A fictional Stasl official. Hans Bauer, grills Speer about his role in the war and the Holocaust. then offers him a chance to return

to the political big time.
In the play's remarkable première, held in January last year in the Berlin Academy hall used by Speer and Hitler, Brandauer played Bauer. That role now goes to Sven Eric Bechtols, and Brandauer, who also directs, has "the challenge of seeing this subject from the other side".

He has read several biographies alongside Vilar's version of the man. but the research has left him completely in doubt. "Speer was one of

e was a man of the men responsible for that mur-enormous talent derous system," he says, after a 10hour rehearsal, "yet I have listened to hours of taped interviews he gave in the late Sixties and his voice sounds so sympathetic - very simple and open." He would love to have met Speer, to judge for himself whether the man who consistently denied prior knowledge of the Final Solution "was really a genius or a liar".

Millions more people know Brandauer as Sean Connery's megalomaniac foe in Never Say Never Again, or Meryl Streep's brutish husband in Out of Africa, than will ever see Speer. But for him to be playing a figure from the Third

'I hope I won't be misunderstood but to deal with such extreme situations as an actor is fantastic'

Reich seems utterly appropriate if you find it difficult to picture him in character unless it is to a background "colour" that includes swastikas and Aryan thugs.

In Mephisto, the Oscar-winning drama that first brought his restless, magnetic presence to an international audience, he shone as an actor who abandons his anti-Fascist principles to further his stage ambitions in Hitler's Germany. His title role in Honussen was as a clairvoyant Austrian soldier murdered by Brownshirts when his predictions are no longer of use to the Nazi propaganda machine. For his directing début, Seven Minutes, he cast himself as Georg Elser, the itinerant craftsman who narrowly failed to assassinate Hitler in 1939. For Kindergarten, the Russian poet Yevgeny Yevbishenko, a close friend, persuaded him to play a Secand World War German army officer. There can be no other actor so closely associated with that dark phase of history.

On Mephisto, Hanussen, and Colonel Redl (as the bisexual Jew who became a turn-of-the-century intelligence chief), he collaborated with the Budapest-born director Istvan Szaho. During the Eighties they were cinema's two-man Austro-Hungarian empire, producing klaus used to slip into the back room historical drama at its finest brisk at the inn where the films were and unsettling. One of their goals, says Brandauer, was to demonstrate "how it is impossible for an individual to live in society without compromise". Where better to illustrate that argument than a Germany where, if you did not want to toe the party line, you fied, dis-sembled or died.

Hanussen and Seven Minutes placed Brandauer's character in almost unwatchable scenes. Hanussen is blindfolded and made to crow like a cockerel before he is murdered; thugs beat Georg Elser to the ground and urinate over his face when he fails to return their "Heil Hitler!". "I hope I won't be misunderstood," he says, "but to deal with such extreme situations as an actor is fantastic."

Brandauer was born too late to have had to stand against Hitler, a forinight after D-Day in Altaussee, an Alpine village near Saizburg: "1,800 inhabitants, 500 cows, 2,000



Klans Maria Brandauer. 'Luckily, I realised very young what could happen to individuals during conflict'

chickens, eight months of snow". Scene one of a Brandauer biopic would show a van containing a mobile cinema pulling into Altaussee for its monthly visit. The 13-year-old Klaus used to slip into the back room shown the breaks into a rousing chorus of Altaussee men ordering beer and sausages to re-create the background), to watch Bardot and other images that "were not really per-mitted" for the village's children. "I'm not sure if the mobile cinema was the reason I first decided to become an actor," he says, "but it was

quite something."
"I did not suffer because of the war. But my grandfather had been imprisoned for being a social democrat and my father had fought as an Obergefreite [lance-corporal]. I remember listening to them talking about their experiences in the war and so, luckily, I realised very young what could happen to individuals during conflict." At 18, he married an Altaussee girl, Karin Müller, who became one of Austria's most respected television directors. She died of cancer in 1992, aged 47, and he has not remarried. Their composer son Christian, now 36, scored

a number of his mother's films, and Kershner said: "Klaus is an intelhis father's second feature as a director Mario and the Magician (yet another tale of individuals caught up in the rise of Fascism, this time in Twenties Italy).

In the Seventies, performances in Molière, Shakespeare and Goethe established Brandauer as Austria's finest stage actor, yet he was largely unknown beyond what he calls this very small country which, because it uses the German language, is a little bit swallowed up by Germany". That all changed with Mephisto.

Szabo collected the Oscar for Best Foreign Film and Brandauer won Best Actor at Cannes, which gave him the chance to chew scenery as Maximilian Largo in Connexy's 1983 return to Bond, Never Say Never Again. "It was paradise! The aim is just to entertain people. For two hours you make them very happy. It's very unjust that you have a much better quality of life if you do films like that, rather than Colonel Redl. But I'm very grateful, because in the shadow of Connery I got a little attention and so maybe more people went to my and Istvan's films." After directing the Bond, Irvin

lectual and you don't find that very often with actors." Brandauer, however, rejects this label, suggesting that a few after-hours conversations about Russian literature and Hieronymus Bosch must have given "Kersh" an exaggerated impression of his intellect.

In the mid-Eighties, had it not been for the simultaneous rise of Arnold Schwarzenegger, Brandauer would have become Austria's most famous screen export. His performance in Out of Africa brought. him a Best Supporting Actor Oscar nomination (he lost out to Don Ameche's rejuvenated seventysomething in Cocoon), and his brief appearance as a dissident was the best thing in The Russia House. His muscular voice is a significant part of his armoury, but he would have been a star in the silent era. The only contemporary actor who can match him for neurotic intensity is Christopher Walken, who, coincidentally has been cast as a Bond villain and, in The Dead Zone, a clairvoyant.

Brandauer's English does not, you suspect, allow him to answer questions as fluently as he might like, but the sometimes faltering de-

livery cannot dilute the charm. When he talks about a satisfying role, he smiles like a fox with the keys to the chicken coop. You can imagine him inspiring his students at Vienna's Max Reinhardt Seminar, where he leads intensive two-week drama workshops. "I take the teaching very seriously," he says, "and it makes me very happy, because this way I can keep myself young." What if a student wants to act like Brandauer? "For a moment I'm a little happy, but I make it clear that this is impossible. He can only watch me, take that as an example, and then find the one way for him to express

himself." He will be back in Vienna in the autumn, playing Cyrano de Bergerac, by which time we may have seen him speaking French in a recently completed Rembrandt biopic. Brandauer as Cyrano? Perfect casting a hero bursting with energy, doomed not to get the girl. Brandauer as Rembrandt is less obvious: he's too charismatic to seem old, but he's definitely a master.

'Speer' is at the Almeida Theatre, London N1 (0171-359 4404), from Thursday until 27 March

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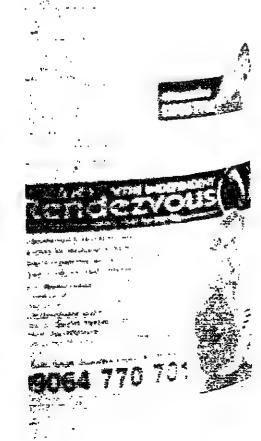
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the screen after a 20-year absence with a story adapted from James Jones's novel about the American assault on adakanai in 1942. THE EXHIBITION JOHN EVERETT MILLAIS The National Portrait Gallery sets out to reassess the later caree of the co-founder of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, John Everett Millais. THE ALBUM UNDER

OVERVIEW

"This album is by some distance their least Following up their satisfying, representing neither a revolutionary advance beyond previous Toughest of the Infants releases, nor a significant refinement of their released in 1996, the techniques," noted Andy Gill, "A familiar dance trio Underworld blend of hip-hop, funk, techno and return with a third albur psychedelia, but it also features too many Beaucoup Fish, shapeless meandering tracks," moaned the

4 GOOD

"On the one hand it's profoundly strange and

rambling, incoherent, perverse and defiantly

"Grandiloquent beyond belief," declared the

Financial Times, adding, "The Thin Red Line is

fabulous to look at. It could have been made

"Boring: this is the most prominent aspect

of Millais' late work. You may say 'stuffy' or

Lubbock, "These later pictures work well as

dignified likenesses of Victorian worthies,

compared to the early work," declared the

beauties and cuties, but they can't be

'twee', but the extreme boringness of it is

the decisive factor," remarked Tom

by God." The Guardian considered it "the

luminously beautiful; on the other, it's

insular," revealed Anthony Quinn.

EXCELLENT

Terrence Malick returns to

The world's most famou

cigarette-packer finds

berself in present-day

South America in Didy

BBC2's comedy-drama

follows the fortunes of

Alan (Ray Winstone), Terry (Mark Strong) and

Graham (Phil Davis) as

they indulge in an act of

schoolboy vengeance.

Veidman's production

with the Northern

Ballet Theatre.

THE TV PROGRAMME BROSS WARRACES

'Veldman presents a fresh and entirely believable Carmen whose transposition to modern-day South America Is a stroke of inspiration," wrote Nadine Neisner, continuing: "As for the anti-heroine herself. Veldman's depiction and Charlotte Broom's enactment fuse potently and realistically." The staging is excellent, the problem is the

The outward richness and strangeness emphasised the unfamiliar, dislocating tone of Tony Grounds' script. Jokes may have been set up, but the abundance of the production killed the humour," observed Robert Hanks. "Not even Ray Winstone could rescue Births, Marriages and Deaths. These people ring as true as Trumpton,"

spat The Sun, while the Daily Record decided: "The actors' menacing image was all gloss with no substance." "A work of immense style and intensity." sang the Daily Mail. "A little bit Reservoir Dogs, a little bit Blues Brothers, a little bit early Michael Caine," explained The Times. "So slick you could go skating on it."

In spite of its quality cast, smart suits and slick camerawork, Births, Marriages and Deaths proves a predictable and only mildly diverting drama

Births, Marriages and Deaths continues next Monday evening at

BY FIONA STURGES

OUR VIEW

Private Ryan, but Mallick

In proving what we already knew - that Millais sold out to

Those looking for the return of

Underworld to the forefront of

disappointed. The understated

By taking the action to South

trodden work while Charlotte

America, Veldman offers a

fresh slant on this well-

Broom's unkempt

memorably sensual

Carmen gives a

performance.

the establishment after his

Pre-Raphaelite days - the

organisers have put

promotes the cause

dance music will be

soundscapes make

Underworld's most

low-key records yet..

this one of

on a show that

of dullness.

forsakes clarity in favour

of psychological

rambling. Not quite

the grand comeback

that we'd expected.

CRITICAL VIEW

most poetic study of foliage ever from

Hollywood," while the Evening Standard

found it "one of the most perplexing films of

the year." "A masterpiece, a stunning piece of

work from one of cinema's true visionaries."

gushed Time Out. "Eerily beautiful." wrote

Standard wrote: "Despite their imposing

rechnical chunkiness, the portraits feel like

the painting of duty." "Millais turned out to

be one of the finest portraitists we have

Daily Mail, "Beaucoup Fish is more of the

emotional sweep rich enough to make you

is at its least cinematic," pronounced The

sinews of rhythmic steel, this is an album

choreography which, despite its plain-

is full of invention," trilled The Stage.

spoken energy, does not show us a full-

The Times. "The greatest attribute is the

"A powerful and bright new show," cried

choreography, which flows beautifully and

blooded tale of fatal attraction," grumbled

feel like you're in a film even when your life

Face, while The Times declared: "Despire its

glorious same," declared Time Out, "An

ever had, as this exhibition reveals,"

sense of purpose and their undoubted

The Express. "Pretentious codswallop."

Daily Telegraph, while the Evening

spluttered the Daily Mail.

disagreed the Daily Mail,

with a heart of glass."

The Daily Telegraph,

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

ON VIEW This picture is light years from The Thin Red Line is the moralising nature of Saving

Millais is at the

National Portrait

Gallery until 6 June

Sun 12-6pm). For

bookings and

enquiries call

0171~306 0055

Beaucoup Fish (V2)

will be available from record shops on

Monday, Underworld

will be touring from

until 13 March

(Brixton Academy)

Tonight is the last

Northern Ballet

the Leeds Grand

performance of the

Theatre's Cormen at

Theatre. For tickets

call 0113-222 6222

Tues (Wolverhampton)

(Mon-Sat 10am-6pm,

VOODS-JACK 8. photographer, tound the work on general release. cert 15. 170 minutes really interesting to see this style. I find it innovative claustrophobic and peaceful; it is whole mixture of things. The work is cutting-edge and contemporary. And it is nice to see a different

> ASHLEY RUDOLPH 26, teacher, London find the concrete or particularly

exhibition for a change: so

because they are quite strong and c found the collage of buildings fascinating, perhaps because it is done with digital photography. I think the digital side has worked pretty well, when it often doesn't quite gel. Here, it has been used

DECKKER 37, photographe London his work appeals to me, Especially the clustering of the blocks of flats. I like the way the planes intersect; some are clean cityscapes, with empty streets, but the layer upon layer represents a dirtiness, and the ugliness of the architecture. The

igital work is nice, simple, and no KAREEN STROHMENGER London

hotographs, such as the one with the long sea wall and sea, and also busy city environments. I prefer the city photographs because they really give you an idea of big nouses and how cities are getting nore and more crowded.

Smash splash ding-dong

OVER TO one side of the cinema screen lurked a clutter of instruments and drums, plus a jolly rig festooned with bits of metal and a chrome lavatory seat. I hoped the musicians would not turn out to be piss-artists. But perhaps the generalised metallic fetish explained why this trio of silent-film accompanists from Boston call themselves the Alloy Orchestra. Tonight they were playing their new score to Eisenstein's Strike, the 1924 film about a group of factory workers taking on the bloated taight much the Alloy boys had left in of capitalism, screened in a fabulously crisp new print

THE DANCE CARMEN

The keyboard player sat down and true to the film's title, they went on to spend a lot of time striking things with sticks. Martial snare-dru: chaotic pots and pans, fat old timpani; FILM SCORE

EISENSTEIN'S STRIKE ALLOY ORCHESTRA **HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH** INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL RITZY CINEMA, LONDON

there was little respite from the massive dram frenzy, and though this was impressive for the opening scenes in the factory, I began to wonder how

reserve for a finale Most of the non-banging content, diffidently inserted a pair of ear-plugs the hearing-impaired keyboard player. before nodding at his colleagues; His brass samples were tragically true to the film's title, they went on farty, there was a stilly choir "Ooh" sound, and he couldn't be expected to overcome the problem that anyone tion to later parts of the film. with only two hands cannot play a

ble on the keyboard. Nevertheless, the first few themes were splendidly dark omens, riffs that ebbed and flowed in time with the film's editing.

Most of the time, the compositions were inventively illustrative, although the music seemed always to offer exscene, lacking the ambition to peer into characters' souls or work creatively against the grain of the visual narrative. Adding a lovely, accordionled dance tune (in which the percussion contributed a memorable finalbar hook of smash splash ding-dong), meanwhile, was handled heroically by a pastoral piano melody for bucolic and precipitate end left behind a scenes of the proles at rest, a bowed saw for looming peril and some avantgarde clarinet squeaking tjust for a laugh) brought much-needed varia-

The vexed question of when to syn- at 5pm. Booking: 0181-563 0233

properly orchestrated string ensem- chronise a sound exactly to a picture presents even more problems to a live band, since the timing inevitably strays. The Alloys chose to provide sound effects for a telephone, a steam whistle and various breakages, but the logic was inconsistent. Why these when you don't have a speech soundternal précis across the length of a track? And if these, why not horses' hooves or gunshots?

Yet by the time of the shattering, murderous climax, the crashing insistence of the drums and the tumescent melodrama of the strings had plugged beautifully into Eisenstein's own tempo, and the film's unnerving clangorous, mournful silence.

STEVEN POOLE

There will be one more performance at the Ritzy, London SW2, tomorrow



'Strike': screened in a crisp new print, with accompaniment by the Alloy Orchestra

Good karma in the Catskills

FIFTY YEARS ago, New Yorkers "a catch". In the Thirties and Forties, summered at Catskills hotels famous for their ad-lib comedy, dancing lessons and borsch (the Borsch Belt). Those hotels are almost all gone now, except for three that were reincarnated as an ashram: the headquarters of the Siddha Yoga Dharma Association (SYDA).

Today, thousands spend their summers at the former Gilbert, Windsor and Brickman hotels. They are followers of the charismatic Gurumayi. Chanting and meditation have replaced the Catskills hotels' former prerequisite, insulting humour. And celibacy has supplanted the Jewish middle-class mating rit-

uals of mid-century. Now, you wander into SYDA looking for shaktipat, or ecstatic transmission, from the realised guru or a follower. Then, young men and women came to the hotels looking for

IF YOU'RE a male resident in Iran

these days, life's doorway is wide

open. You can enjoy group laughter

sessions at dawn in Teheran's public

park. You can learn the great truths

of Islam from a CD-Rom in a down-

town computer-software centre. Or

predominantly Jewish New Yorkers listened to so-called funnymen such as Jerry Lewis and Danny Kaye pelt the audience with quips such as "It says here the world is getting smaller every day. So how come it takes Papa longer to get home every night?" and "The food is terrible. And the portions are too small." Now the ashram's guests spend their evenings smiling.

though no one is telling jokes. The hotels' visitors were a good deal less religious then than SYDA's minions are today. The Brickman hotel's owner once said: "Either you're serious about your religion or you're not and the place you're at doesn't change it." Today, photos of SYDA's lovely Gurumayi cover the walls. Her eyes are always gleaming, her fashionable hats are cocked to the side and her smiles are moviestar enigmatic.

NEW YORK DIARY



ALISSA QUART

Gurumayi has replaced not only her guru, Swami Muktananda, but also the hotels' old gurus - the tummlers. Tummlers, or social directors, led young guests (and their parents) through the day's activities - swimming, callisthenics, amateur

nights and beef brisket dinners. Today, SYDA's herbivores are apparently atoning for their predecessors' chicken feasts. Many of the new guests are still New Yorkers - one regular SYDA visitor calls the

ashram "a happy New York City". Economically depressed Sullivan County has never revived economically after its days as a hospitality and comedy capital. It is full of shingle houses wearing For Sale signs, kosher butcher stores with grimy windows, and roadside placards hawking horse pellets and "1995's BBQ chicken". There are some Hebrew day schools and Hebrew signs, owing to the area's Hasidic population. These Orthodox Jews live in clusters and their New Yorker counterparts summer at the area's smaller hotels.Locals tend to resent SYDA for its tax-exempt status and its various scandals.

Last summer I travelled to another one of the area's ashrams that was once a Catskills hotel - the Belvedere. Sivananda's director, Sri Nīvasan, says that its founder, Swami Vishnu Devananda, chose the area because "he wanted to have an ashram close to New York City, and

because of its spiritual energy". At Sivananda, I felt as if I had indeed found a magic mountain, what with the fresh air back bends on the porch, the daily 6am wake-up time, the regular karmic yoga and having to do free work around the ashram.

I know full well what my grandmother, who spent most of her Catskills holidays making jam, would have called karmic yoga or SYDA's guruseva. In keeping with the old Catskills parlance, she'd call it "getting some fresh air", or maybe even keeping yourself busy".

Berry Gordy's Motown (Radio 2, they would be tempted away. The

merchant ship Harrington. In 1822 he was abducted by pirates and forced to join their operations off the Cuban coast. Descendants: The Atrocities of the Pirates (Radio 4. Saturday) was a grim account of life on board ship in the 19th century. If you disobeyed your captain the punishment was harsh; you could be flogged, then roped by the ankles and pulled underneath the keel of the vessel. Very nasty, and that was just in the Royal Navy. If the pirates got

ARTS DIARY

DAVID LISTER

I AM pleased to be able to offer help and advice to the music industry. It emerged this week that problems have arisen with the plan by record companies to stage a Summer Brits" in Manchester. The two-day event will raise money for the Government's Youth Music Trust scheme to provide more music education and instruments in schools, but now some promoters don't want to release their artists until tickets for their own tours are sold. The pop impresario Pete Waterman. who is handling part of the event, says: "If we can't put ourselves out for this, then we

shouldn't be in the business." But there is a way out. Why don't the record companies simply donate money from their massive profits to the scheme? They could easily top the £10m already given by the National Lottery. Indeed, it's a little hard to understand how exactly the record companies are being charitable. The public will spend money to buy tickets: the record companies acts will get masses of free publicity. It's a curious kind of philanthropy. The best way of giving money remains... giving money.

presented in London at a dinner hosted by Griff Rhys Jones and Rory Bremner. Well, they probably take their holidays in Italy. The lifetime achievers were Jeremy Irons. Claudia Cardinale and Bernardo Bertolucci, who have a fair few movies between them. But take a glance at some of the others on the shortlist: Daniel Dav-Lewis, Ewan McGregor and Kristin Scott Thomas. They have some great performances to their credit. But surely you have to be at least into middle age before celebrating a lifetime's work. Or is the award fast becoming just another way of getting

ARTSPEAK WORD of the week has to be "festival". There was a time when companies put on productions, shows, operas, concerts. How

glamorous and photogenic

stars to turn up at the

ceremony?

unadventurous ali those words now sound. The RSC's new brochure announces its "summer festival season"; the Royal Opera House announces that the House will reopen with a "festival" of opera, ballet and concerts. Hard to see how the festival differs from the ROH's usual practice of putting on operas, ballets and concerts. But if artspeak can sell tickets, don't

you can go to football matches, standing on the terraces with 30,000 other like-minded fellows, passing glasses of hot tea to one another and shouting rude things at the ref. For women, however, there is much less choice. Apparently, it's football or nothing. In Crossing Continents (Radio 4, Thursday), Tim Whewell related how thousands of women fought their way into a stadium after their national team's victory over the United States in last year's World Cup. Hitherto they had been barred from watching or taking

part in the game, but lately these women have gone it alone, setting up independent sports federations and playing five-a-side matches behind closed doors. Twenty years after the revolution, women in Iran are still obliged to wear full Muslim dress when they go out. But they feel a lot better about it now that they can add a pair of football boots as well.

The idea of the game of football giving hope to people is a noble one, as most Manchester City supporters will know. One of their biggest fans is Curly Watts, the actor from Coronation Street who plays Kevin Kennedy in real life. Dream Teams (Radio 5, Monday) gave him 20 minutes to go into raptures about the great days at Maine Road (which he remembers from his childhood). "Footbell at Man City defies logic," THE WEEK IN RADIO



MAGNUS MILLS

he admitted at one point during the programme. "You never know what the Blues are going to do next." Meanwhile, the presenter Jim White quietly taunted him by simply not mentioning Manchester United

Wednesday) told another sort of success story. The record company Gordy founded in 1959 had a quality control department similar to the ones he'd known while working in the car-assembly plants of Detroit. A deft touch indeed, especially when the man he put in charge of quality was Norman Whitfield, producer of The Velvelettes' "Needle in a Haystack". Such foresight set Berry Gordy way ahead of the field in the early Sixties, and with acts like The Temptations.

The Supremes and the Four Tops, there was little that could go wrong. Except when the bigger labels tried to lure away the talent. Tamla Motown preferred to invest in research and development, rather than offer big advances for its artists, with the result that occasionally you, it was much worse.

first to defect was Mary Wells, best remembered for her performance of 'My Guy". A rival company offered her half a million dollars, and she quickly jumped ship. Less tempting was the offer made to Aaron Smith, navigator of the

> ANOTHER DAY, another awards ceremony, another lifetime achievement award. This week saw the Rudolph Valentino awards for lifetime achievement in cinema. They are sponsored by the Motion Picture Association of Italy but were

THE BOOKS INTERVIEW

Late LISA

Enver's never-never land

Ismail Kadare's novels take Albania's plight into the heart of Europe. Shusha Guppy talks to him

hile the Serbian and Kosovan delegates were locked up this week in the Château de Rambouillet, in Paris Albania's greatest living writer was anxiously awaiting the outcome. Ismail Kadare's latest book. Three Elegies for Kosovo, has just been published in France to great acclaim. It recounts the famous Battle of Kosovo in 1389, in which several Balkan kingdoms joined forces against the Turks, and lost,

The battle lasted only one day, but the Turkish leader Sultan Murad was killed, and the Turks left. (They returned 150 years later, took the whole of the Balkans, and stayed for 400 years.) The battle is described by three narrators - Turkish, Serbian, Albanian - in three short sections. For the following six centuries, the Serbs and the Albanians have been fighting over Kosovo.

Ismail Kadare once said that a writer has two ages: his natural age, and his reputation, which lives on another time-scale. His own reputation came to the West in 1970. when his povel The General of the Dead Army took literary Paris by storm. It tells the story of an Italian general who goes to Albania after the Second World War to recover the bodies of Italian soldiers and bring them back for burial. It was bailed as a masterpiece, and in France its author was received by intellectuals as a new, powerful voice from behind the Iron Curtain.

Since then, Kadare's prodigious output 15 volumes of fiction, several collections of poetry and essays - has been translated into most major languages, and he has heen nominated for the Nobel Prize 15 times. He has been compared to Gogol, Kafka and Orwell, but his is an original voice, universal but rooted in his own soil.

Kadare is profoundly involved with his country - "the antique Illyrium, the third region of southern Europe beside Rome and Greece" - and its language, a unique branch of the Indo-European family. He speaks in prophetic accents of "La Grande Litterature Universelle", which is his spiritual home: "Literature led me to freedom, not the other way round". That a small faraway country should have produced a writer of his stature adds weight to his belief that Albania belongs to the mainstream of European culture.

Kadare partly blames the West for the Albanian dictator Enver Hoxba's entrenchment: "The West forgave Tito and helped Yugoslavia, but it did not forgive Hoxha. he was rejected, so he made an absurd short-lived alliance with China. When that went wrong he built thousands of antiuseless, but he wanted to create a fearpsychosis. Albania suffered longer than any other Eastern European country."

The success of The General abroad put Kadare in an awkward position in Albania. Official critics savaged him. Where were the cheerful peasants, the Stakhanovite workers, the optimism about a glorious future? His book was gloomy, all mud and rain and rotten bodies, and the false heroism of war. Thereafter Kadare used a variety of literary devices - allegory, satire, mythology, historical narrative - to escape Hoxha's ruthless censors: "Hoxha fancied himself an intellectual and poet who had been to the Sorbonne, and he didn't want to be seen as an enemy of writers. Of course, he could



have killed me in a 'car crash', or by 'suicide', as he did many others.'

There followed nearly three decades of a deadly cat-and-mouse game. Kadare's books were in turn published and banned. He was made an MP one day, exiled to a remote region the next. In 1975, he narrowly escaped being shot, when his satirical poem The Red Pasha was denounced by a government employee. Yet he did not want to uproot himself by defecting, Instead, he chronicled the dark years of dictatorship in masterpieces such as The Pyramid, The Concert and Chronicle in Stone, an en-

chanting account of his childhood. in 1962, he was ready to turn to Europe, but regime writer, and the fact that the regime could not condemn me gave courage to others," he explains. He finally left Albania in 1990, and was welcomed in France nuclear pill-boxes, which he knew were as an honoured guest: "One day I received a letter from Tamiz Alia, Hoxha's successor, in which the Party was mentioned 23 times. I knew it was time for me to go. There was a struggle between democracy and dictatorship, and I thought that my departure

would help the cause of democracy." Kadare is slim, shy and courteous. His dark dapper suit and large horn-rimmed glasses emphasise his serious expression while his deep voice and strong accent are mitigated by a ready smile and laughter. He lives in Paris in a spacious, bright apartment overlooking the Luxembourg Gardens, which belongs to the French Academy. In 1996, he was made a Member of the French Academy of Moral and Political Sciences, replacing the British

ISMAIL KADARE, A BIOGRAPHY

Ismail Kadare was born in Albania in 1936, in Gjinokastra near the Greek border (also the birthplace of Enver Hoxha). He studied literature in Tirana, then spent three years at Gorky Institute, Moscow. When Hoxha broke with the USSR in 1961. Kadare returned and published his first novel in 1962. He left Albania in

philosopher Karl Popper, and last year he was presented with the Legion d'honneur. the first Albanian to receive the honour

In Britain, until recently, few people had read Kadare. Yet his literary progenitor is Shakespeare: "I read Macbeth when I was 11; it hit me like lightning, and I copied every word of it." Later he discovered the Greek classics: "After that nothing could have power over my spirit. I realised that there was a great universal literature which nothing can destroy. So when I went to Gorky Institute in Moscow, which was a factory for producing Party backs, I was already immunised. What was happening in Elsinore or by the ramparts of Troy was more real to me than the wretched banalities of socialist-realist novels. I had three choices: to become a conformist, to stop writing, or to write as if I were free. I chose the last." Since the collapse of Communism some

former dissident authors have stopped writ-

by Harvill: The Pyramid, The Palace of Dreams, The Concert, The Three-Arched Bridge and Broken April. ing as if they had lost their raison d'être. Not so Kadare, who has since produced Spiritus (a novel about two shosts who

1990 with his wife and daughter and

volumes of essays and memoirs. Ten

novels are published in English, five

settled in Paris, but goes back regularly. He bas published 14 novels, three books of poetry, and

memoirs, and Three Elegies for Kosoco. Has freedom of expression helped him? "For a writer personal freedom is not so important. It is not individual freedom that guarantees the greatness of literature, otherwise writers in democratic countries would be superior to all others. Some of the greatest writers wrote under dictatorship - Shakespeare, Cervantes. The great universal literature has always had a tragic relation with freedom. The Greeks renounced absolute freedom and imposed order on chaotic mythology, like a tyrant.

"On the other hand, nobody forced Gorky to write The Mother, in New York in 1905. Gorky's slavery was in his head, and his piece of rubbish murdered half the writers of Eastern Europe, as it became a model

everybody had to copy. In the West, the problem is not freedom. There are other servitudes - lack of talent, thousands of mediocre books published every year."

Nowadays, Kadare prefers working in Paris. He writes in a café near his home for a few hours a day, reads, and spends time with friends, mostly French writers. At the moment his main preoccupation is Kosovo: "Why was this piece of Albania given to Serbia as a present after the War? It was a tragic error: 40 per cent of all Albanians live in Kosovo: a classic example of colonialism, worse than South Africa under spartheid. The Serbs evoke the Battle of vo; it is as if Britain claimed Belghun because of the Battle of Waterloo."

I pointed out that the world community feared the disintegration of the whole return to a postcommunist world), poetry, Balkans, with every tiny bit demanding independence. "You cannot keep a people in slavery by that sort of reasoning," he answers. "It is immoral. But I agree that there is a danger, and for that reason the European Community should negotiate for serious compromises, even sacrifices... For example, that for 5-10 years Kosovo would not join Albania, and that the Albanians of Macedonia would not rock the boat for the same length of time." What about America, I wondered? "I cannot answer that question," he says, "but I know that Europe must be responsible for its own destiny, otherwise it is the end of European civilisation."

> Ismail Kadare talks (in French) at the French Inst, 15 Queensberry Place, London SW7 on 2 Mostch at 6.30 pm (0171-838 2144)

Shiftless in Southwold

E Jane Dickson goes into the flimsy beach-huts and crumbling follies of

Suffolk to discover a new style of architecture, and a change of heart

COVER



MORE TROUBLE for Phaidon, rescued from the receivers a few years back by businessman Richard Schlagman, a major collector of Stanley Spencer. Schlagman has had run-ins with a number of staff and authors. Now the trustees of the Henri Matisse estate are stepping up a seven-year legal hattle against Phaidon for breach of copyright, and have served a writ. The family says eight Phaidon titles, including the bestselling Art Book, "unlawfully reproduced" Matisse works. The publisher claims the paintings have been used in "serious art books for critical purposes", the sort of fair-use clause cited by critics quoting an author's work. Family lawyers have countered that the books are not aimed at students, but the coffee table. Phaidon's defence cites the estate's *excessive fees". But what did Schlagman charge when last a publisher wished to reproduce one of his Spencers?

FEW PEOPLE are more loved in publishing than Liz Calder, a founding director and now Editorn-Chief of Bloomsbury, which makes The Times's snide distortion of her decision to begin handing over some responsibility to Virago publisher-turned-agent Alexandra Pringle all the odder. The paper suggested "the grande dame" was being "eased out", replaced by someone better able to attract young talent. In the first place, Calder is one of the least grande" dames in publishing Second, she has chosen a gradual hand-over so she can concentrate on her 100-odd authors. And she has no problem pulling talent, of whatever age. Bloomsbury without Calder is unthinkable – which is why their decision to publish Anna Pasternak's Princess in Love behind her back was totally dishonourable.

ONE OF last year's bestselling debuts was Ardal O'Hanlon's The Talk of the Town. Now his Father Ted co-star, Pauline McLynn, who lays the inimitable Mrs Doyle, is also at work on a novel. Two in fact, both featuring Irish private eye Leo Street, a feisty female whom publishers Headline hope will soon be up there with Sara Paretsky's V I Warshawski.

NEIL KINNOCK has resisted all rgings to put pen to paper. lowever, the former Labour eader has authorised Martin Westlake, a colleague in the European Commission, to write his life, granting him access to family, friends and colleagues, and rights to his papers. The book, lue next year, was agented by Andrew Lownie and sold to Little, Brown, publishers of Kinnock's ex-deputy Roy Hattersley.

THE LITERATOR

125

Plenty of lolly in the ice

Freighted with plaudits, the latest US blockbuster sails into British waters at last. John Sutherland climbs aboard for a tour of inspection

THE VOYAGE of the Narwhal, as is now routine with big American novels and movies. comes to Britain late in the days It was released in the US last September: Andrea Barrett aad made her mark with a collection of emigration stories, Ship Fever, which unexpectedly won a National Book Award in 1996. The US publisher, Norton, out significant investment into Barrett's subsequent nautical aovel, intending to crown critcal esteem with commercial success. It would be E Annie Proutx all over again.

Norton's investment paid off. The Voyage of the Narwhal got reviews to die for The Sritish publisher has sent renewers a pack of Xeroxes oozng such syrup. Don't let them ell you that spin-doctoring is ust a political phenomenon.

Andrea Barrett is a prize product of the college creativewriting course and berself eaches in a Master of Fine Arts programme. She got a Guggen-1eim Award to research this yook (a lengthy bibliography estifies to her scholarly conccientiousness). One's first filemma is whether to read. review, or grade the novel.

Frankly, the last is easier han the first. As an exercise in composition this is summa rum laude. It is, however, a as very wet. The voyage of the Zeke (presumed dead) is left



The Voyage of the by Andrea Barrett Flaminga, £15.99, 399pp

difficult read, at least initially. The narrative is pitched between historical docu-fiction and Melvillean romance. It is 1855, on the Eastern seaboard. An expedition is embarked to discover the fate of Sir John Franklin's expedition to the frozen waters off Greenland. Franklin had been lost ten years earlier, looking for the

North West Passage. The Narwhal is commanded by a young Emersonian idealist, Zeke Voorhees. Also on board is a disillusioned naturalist, Erasmus Darwin Wells. Zeke is engaged to Erasmus's

overshadowed by that of Elisha Kent Kane (which was historical). As they penetrate the eery waters of Baffin Bay, tensions develop in the 15-man up to mortal pitch when the ship comes ice-locked for many months in what is a graveyard for 19th-century vessels. One of the initial problems

with the novel is determining its creative centre. Neither of the principals, Zeke nor Erasmus, generates warmth in the reader. As with most seagoing yarns, there is no love interest. The point of the novel, for most of its length, seems to be the polar mise en scène. Forging a Victorian-scientific pastiche style, Barrett handles this aspect well. There are memorable descriptions of the wooden vessel, caught between plates of ice, rumbling "with sudden, explosive cracks that made the men feel as if they'd been caught in a giant mouth, which was chewing on the landscape". One thinks of the Ancient Mariner's ice-floes, which "cracked and growled, and

roared and howled". Things hot up (so to speak) in the last third. The survivors on the Narrohal make a break sister, Lavinia, who strikes one for freedom in an open boat.

Narwhal (which is fictional) is behind. By a miracle they are rescued. Their expedition seems to have been futile. They have turned up enigmatic relics of Franklin's voyage which solve nothing. No passage has been discovered. Erasmus's specimens have been lost. All the limelight is drawn to Kane's triumphant return and his book, Arctic Explorations.

The narrative climaxes with a great surprise which it would be unkind to give away (this is not a book rich in surprises). It finally emerges what the Norwhal has, in fact, discovered. Running throughout the cogitations of the main characters has been what was called the monogenic debate. Was the human race one species, or many? Were those encyclopedias which showed "the esquimeaux like misshapen gnomes and the Negroes like chimpanzees" correct? Was Linnaeus right in "proposing a separate species of man, possessed of a tail and inhabiting the antarctic regions"?

Most Victorians adhered to the polygenic belief they had no kinship with savage bottentots and degraded tribes in polar snows. The good ship Naruchol. the modern reader will be relieved to know, sails serenely into the harbour of political THERE IS a kind of English understatedness that has nothing to do with stiff upper lips. If the emotions in Female Ruins are not splashed across the sky, it

is not that these emotions are

stifled, but that they are active,

skirmishing things, constantly

Kelly Howell is a heroine you

cancelling each other out.

couldn't second-guess. Her late father Christopher Howell, was a visionary and cult figure, "the greatest modern English architect never to have built a building". Exhausted by the probings of academics desperate for details of the great man, Kelly lives a quietly unconventional life driving a mini-cab in East Anglia. Self-contained to the point of inertia, she enjoys driving because it is a semiautomatic function. She does not particularly enjoy exercising at the gym but she does it because she knows she will feel better. She has similar expectations of sex, but is often disappointed. When Dexter, a Californian tourist with a seri-

ous irony deficiency, hires her for sightseeing on the Suffolk coast, her hopes are not high. East Anglia is an excellent setting for Nicholson's palette of half-tints and Kelly is an engaging tour guide. She has inherited her father's passion correctness on this question. I for architectural faibles, and the



Female Ruins by Geoff Nicholson Gallancz, £9.99, 221pp

bermised Dexter is treated to beach huts at Southwold, the follies of Thorpeness, ruined churches, crazy-golf courses, and Sizewell B nuclear plant. Kelly's feeling for "insub-

stantial architecture", interleaved with her father's philisophical writings, is the real keystone of Female Ruins. We are romantically attracted to rains because they represent a glory that is gone, but beach huis and the like were never built for glory, so all the bets are off Nicholson is the least invasive of authors, writing comheroine is never given the narrative once-over, we're not told as testosterone-powered hooliif she's pretty or plain, right or gans, while the ruined icons,

wrong but, through the build- from plaster virgins of the 17th ings she loves, Kelly's self image flimsy and faded but still

standing is revealed. Slowly, Nicholson expands the metaphor. When Dexter and Kelly visit the ruined monastery at Monkwich and stand on the crumbling shore where the bleached bones of parishioners reach out of the cliff face, the point is made. Even our most solidly founded buildings, the churches faith leads us to think of as sempiternal, are, from a millenni-Everyone builds his house on the sand, because sand, in the end, is all there is. Nothing is

permanent not buildings, not people, certainly not passion. Kelly and Dexter have a brief, deeply unromantic affair, but when it turns out that Dexter has links with her father's past, the relationship turns into something more complicated than love or sex Again. these feelings are acknowledged only in terms of architecture. Kelly is greatly taken with her father's theory of "gendered space". In this value system, the Puritan iconoclasts who scrubbed out saints' paintfortably in the third person. His ed faces and their minimal modern descendants are seen

century to the screen idols of Hollywood, are inherently, but

not inviolately, female. Only when the action switches to California, where everything is hard-edged and shiny, does Nicholson's preoccupation with Englishness become properly apparent. America's motel-culture and flat-pack mails are transient, disposable without the grace of even a pretended faith in the future. Kelly feels more dislocated than ever in a country where al perspective, temporary. her father's eccentricities are not seen as a flash of brilliance but a failure of professionalism.

Stripped of her last illusions about her father, Kelly may be wiser, but she is no sadder. True to form, she subverts our expectations and emerges feeling faintly liberated. Nicholson's philosophy is dense but not all dark. In a world where all will come to dust, there are still some small redemptions. Female Ruins shows us how to wrest them from the wreckage.

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Can literature replace faith in a secular age? Michael Schmidt dissents from a critic's sermon

Religion of a novel kind

Most bave au agenda but, as with other writers, that agenda evolves over time. James Wood, who was born to the mid-1960s, enjoyed an evangelical upbringing but sang in the choir of Durham Cathedral. So he experienced faith in two very different forms, which in a sense propose distinct political and aesthetic as well as spiritual models. As a critic, he remains torn between the reticent and subtle on the one hand, the abundant and demonstrative on the other, the High and Low church.

Wood arranges his essays on writers in The Broken Estate according to a rough chronology of subject, from Thomas More to W G Sebald. The book concludes with four essays which explore "The Broken Estate" in an almost vuinerable spirit. What Wood does not tell us, and what we need to know, is when and on what occasion each essay was written.

In his essay on Virginia Woolf, he remarks that she was less interested in the fact of impressions, more in their nature. And Wood himself has a marked preference for writers who do not find the depths only on the surface but manifest what he is pleased to call a "theology". In his sweet-andsour demonology, Flaubert the supreme stylist has a lot to

The first two literary essays, on Jane Austen and Herman Melville, embody a contradiction that runs through the book. Is the essay on Austen early, along with that on Virginia Woolf? They have a tiggerish, undergraduate alr, triumphantly inventing the almost-round wheel. "It is this innovation, the discovery of ness of the mind's communiconstitutes [Austen's] radical-



The Broken Estate: essays on literature and belief

by James Wood Jonathan Cape, £16.99, 384pp

inwardness that we get to know a character." There is no other way. Not even through action?

The elaborate rhetoric of the Melville essay feels different in kind it is certainly different in rhetorical strategy. Is Wood, who subtitles this book essays on literature and belief", emerging from belief towards literature? Or is he torn between kinds of manifest belief? Wood, who received "a musical and religious education", can ask a book the wrong question, or else the right questions in the wrong way.

For instance, he is singularly uninterested in sex, yet the sexuality of a writer - as in Melville, Mann or Lawrence has a lot do with how that writer manifests "belief". I wish he was more alive to the libidos of writers. In Mann, Lawrence and others the "theology" (if the term must be applied) is genitally coloured, or genitally bleached. And how much more so with his contemporary

Wood's Melville essay begins: "When it come to language, all writers want to be billionaires. All long to possess so many words that using them is a fat charity. To be utterly free in language, to be absolute commander of what you do not own - this is the greatest desire of any writer." He has only just sed of Jane Austen, who does not dream of touching ism." Wood writes. This and every word in the lexicon

the 18th century for starters. Wood discloses how Melville succumbs to the logic of a chosen metaphor. It can take him, and his metaphysics, in curious directions. Language has its own dynamic, and a writer who gives it its head can be galloped off in unexpected directions. "The love of a metaphor literally leads Melville astray theologically." And a love

of theology - broadly construed

- can lead James Wood astray.

Wood is at his best when engeging a writer like Gogol, whose life and work propose vertiginous paradoxes. He is af his most predictable with "one of the century's greatest religious writers", DH Lawrence, "one of those greatest mystical texts" turns out to be the awful The Woman Who Rode Away. He is at his worst when riled trying to be even-banded. Reading Anthony Julius's book on T S Eliot's anti-Semitism "is like watching a maniac trying to calm a hysteric". This is wrong on both counts, and silly. Am I the only reader trou-

bled by the juxtaposition of Wood's exoneration of Eliot, and his wilful assault on George Steiner's Real Presences and Steiner's oeuvre as a whole? It is facile to parody Steiner's style, or to patronise him. The substance of Steiner's argument eludes Wood, but it shouldn't. Real Presences and The Broken Estate hoe the same stony field.

But Steiner's title is a red rag to a (once-Christian) bull. Steiner, he complains, has appropriated and applied a term with specific, sacramental meanings. By the same token, Wood consistently misuses the term "allegory", a specific mode in Christian writing that depends on a spiritual commonality.

The Broken Estate is a miscellany; and the introduction attempts to yoke the pieces tois not alone in refuting his gruence between the religious cation with itself, that enormous claim, "What writer and the novelistic impulse, of a story as an enigma," He "The real in fiction is always a matter of belief, and is therenothing else. "It is through once?" Almost any writer of fore a kind of discretionary friends, we can imagine decidedly mainstream, impa-



magic: it is a magic whose existence it is up to us, as readers, to validate and confirm." "The real" here is less philosophically complex than Steiner's idea of the "real". If Wood's rhetoric is less emphatic than Steiner's, it is no subtler. Note the pompous commas around "as readers", underlining a tautology. And "discretionary magic" - is there room for

magic in this kind of criticism? "Chekhov thinks of detail, even visual detail, as a story," derful; but he adds "and thinks pushes too far. "From the various memoirs by relatives and [Chekhov as] a man who always seemed a little older than himself." This is vivid; but then Chekhov is seen as "older than anyone he met, as if he were living more than one life". Wood is carried away from sense into nonsense.

As for the notion that "the real" exists outside the language that constructs it so that language can confidently refer to it, this begs a question or two. Wood's is manifestly impatient with writers who reify (what would he make of Christine Brooke-Rose, B S Johnson or Michael Westlake?). He is

tient of experiment, but dissatisfied that the mainstream in the Britain of the writers he discusses - should flow so shallowly today.

Wood evinces time and again the caustic intelligence that reminds us of F R Leavis and his Scrutiny disciples. He is a critic hungry for something. He knows when he hasn't found it. When he does find it in adequate measure, he will be a formidable advocate.

Michael Schmidt's book "The lished by Weidenfeld & Nicolson; he is Director of the Writing School at Manchester Metropolitan University

Brain storms in a test tube

EVER SINCE Stephen Hawking sought to peer into "the mind of God" and watched his sales shoot through the stratosphere. heady speculation by leading scientists has picked up an impregnable prestige. From the neo-Darwinists who plant the seed of market forces in our genes to the digital wizards who find paradise on-line, tall tales from some copper-bottomed

scientific source always draw a crowd. Pundits bus during this year's National Science Week (from 12 Marchi will give thanks for those titans of the lab who deign to share their wit and wisdom with the plebs. Up to a point, Lord

Bragg. Expert guesswork is all very well; but when top names on one patch spin yarns about a subject far beyond their ken, nasty accidents can happen on the page. And they will not, in this galaxy or the next, come much pastier than Dancing Naked in the Mind Field by Kary Mullis (Bloomsbury, £12.09).

Dr Mullis won a Nobel Prize for chemistry in 1993. At the Cetus biotechnology corporation in California, be devised the polymerase chain reaction (PCR). It allows the isolation and fast replication of DNA sequences in vitro: a monumental breakthrough that lies behind genetic research into heritable diseases, the use of DNA evidence in solving crimes, the search for a clearer map of human evolution even the central conceit of Jurassic Park. Hoffmann-La Roche thought PCR important enough to pay Cetus \$300 million for the patent. Mullis pocketed a \$10,000 bonus for his pains So far, so heroic. Big

Science never sounded bigger. In his laid-back, ageless-hippie style, Mullis - a celebrated surfer, jester and all-round party animal explains the birth of PCR with charm and zest. He offers a riveting ringsideseat account of the LAPD's DNA-sample flascos in the O J Simpson trial. What he truly knows, he knows (and telis: wonderfully well.

But the bulk of these beyond DNA or PCR. Mullis is a knee-jerk contrarian: show him the orthodoxy on someone else's turf, and he will want your pass just ran out.

WINNER OF THE 1998

WHITBREAD FIRST NOVEL AWARD

A WEEK IN **BOOKS**



BOYD TONKIN

Why respect scientists who peddle silly myths?

to stand it on its head. Add a strong dose of New Age credulity, with a gallon of anti-government bile, and the results range from the ditsy to the plain dismal.

"Hunter S Thompson meets Stephen Hawking". shouts the cover. In your dreams (formerly LSDassisted, he admits), Dr Mullis, "David Icke meets Julie Burchill" might be much nearer the mark.

Mullis believes that global warming and ozonedepletion are urban myths cooked up by bureaucrats in search of int grants. He believes that a girlfriend saved him from a near-fatal overdose of laughing gas by travelling to him "on the astral plane". He believes astrology is simply "true" if you have your horoscope "cast by a computer". And he believes (as you may have surmised) that he was abducted by aliens from his cabin in the woods.

Then the giggles have to stop. Inevitably, Mullis is also convinced that HIV infection does not cause Aids; but that a sex- and drug-induced viral overload does. He insuits and libels the 99-per-cent majority of responsible researchers who disagree ("They are still making payments on their new BMWs out of your pocket"), and equates his band of heretics with

Galileo contra the Church. Now, if HIV really is a harmless virus, it matters not a lot if you transmit or acquire it. Bloomsbury (of all publishers) is promoting this daft book on the back of its author's status as a Nobel laureate. If his tiny sect is wrong, and the consensus right, it could prove fatal to its readers.

In the afterword, Kary Mullis proudly calls the Nobel "a free pass for the rest of your life". Hold on a minute there, pal. I think

mark on everyone one loves," said Peggy Ramsay in a letter to her lover, the actor/writer/director Simon Callow. Only he wasn't her lover exactly: more.

as the subtitle of his book suggests, a "passionate friend". which is a euphemism that denies the book its most fascinating aspect. It is a love story. and if it is a love story without sex, it is only because one of the participants was a 70-year-old woman, the other a 30-year-old homosexual man.

ONE SHOULD leave one's

The affair with Simon Callow began with a coup de foudre. They met by chance, they talked without drawing breath, they exchanged letters, she watched him act, she became his patron, he became her "Puppy". To him she sacrificed the thing she held dearest: her independence.

She found in him energy, youth and unambiguous passion for the things she cared about most: Life and Art - but not in that order. For Art everything had to give way: friendship, comfort, marriage. "Expect nothing," she said,

Fine art of friendship

Richard Eyre acclaims a memoir of the agent who outshone her stars



Love is Where it Fails by Simon Callow Nick Hern Books, £14.99, 214pp

"and everything becomes a bonus". With Simon it became apparent she expected everything of him, and in his way he

gave her everything he could. He gave her love without desire. Peggy Ramsay was a literary agent, who dealt exclusively with writers who wrote for the stage and - much less important to her - for the screen. She

all of whom at some time or other, however briefly, she was infatuated with: David Hare, Christopher Hampton, Robert Bolt, Alan Aykbourn, John Mortimer, Joe Orton, Edward Bond, Caryl Churchill, Willy Russell, John McGrath, Howard Brenton, Peter Nichols and more. She had what Simon Callow

described as an "amorous" re-

lationship with all her authors; she identified something in their work that she wholly admired, pursued them, represented them, encouraged them. and was almost invariably disappointed by them. She judged her clients by comparison with dead authors ("Is he as good as Shakespeare, dear?") and would say to one client of another "Do you think he'll write

left her mark on all her writers. anything really good, dear?". She provoked strong feelings

in what one client decribed to me as her "menagerie". They wanted to be loved by her, and were sometimes hurt by her contempt, or exasperated by her exacting standards. When I took over the National Theatre, she said to me: "Dear, I hope you'll have the courage to be unpopular."

Most of what one knew of Peggy was legend: her age, her lovers (who possibly included Beckett, and certainly Ionesco), her background, her acting career, her home life - if one could ever have imagined Peggy being so bourgeois. It's shocking to discover the factual detail: her mother, her husband, her abortions, and the solitariness of a life in which the

company of books was almost invariably preferable to people. Except when it came to Simon, with whom she desperately craved companionship. "Should we adopt a child, you and I?" she said, and he, for once, was

silenced with amazement.

Peggy was a good deal larger than life - or life was a good deal smaller than Peggy, which is why it's possible to write about this book and ignore the fact that Callow's love story is a triangular one. Through most of the years of his "affair" with Peggy, he was having an affair with a rich, handsome, sad (and suicidal) Egyptian boy.

Callow has a brilliant eye and ear. No photograph could do justice to Peggy. A very good portrait painter might have painted her over many sittings if she

unless she had been listening to Schubert or Strauss she wouldn't have stopped talking. Callow brilliantly captures ber gloriously idiosyncratic conversation, larded with epigrams; her flights of smoothly modulated sentences interrupted by italicised attacks on words, her voice swooping like

had ever had the patience, but

herons diving for fish. At the end of her life and the onset of Alzheimer's, the droll gave way to the tragic, and she became as small as life. As David Hare said, she became just like a human being. She was frail, needing reassurance. needing to be convinced that her life had mattered, and Callow describes this painful decline with an immensely touching fastidiousness. If she hadn't been its subject, she would have loved this book; it is about everything that mattered to her. "It's frightfully well-written, dear," she would have said. And it is.

Sir Richard Eyre was Director of the Royal National Theatre

A nove of thrilling inmediacy 'Audacious."

NOW IN PAPERBACK

A swampy tale deep in the heart of Essex

James Urquhart can't find the focus of a bold voyage from colonial forests to the ruins of Stansted Airport



by Jay Merrick Fourth Estate, £10.99, 276pp JAY MERRICK'S debut novel spins an engrossing yarn of selfdiscovery that reaches into the murky backwaters of colonial administration in 1930s South America. Despatched from London to make his way at the Roraima offices of Spivey & Co. Shipping Agents, James Freyn glides easily into the pukkah social circles of the expat Tembari Club. But a public slip of eti-

terious Luchenne's ranch in the tranced by Freyn's lucid recall forest reveal to Freyn how brit- of events, and transcribes it. tle the civilised veneer really is. Freyn is now 106, and living

in a cardboard box in the Delta when the young scientist, Walter Cowley, happens upon him. squat of outcasts scraping a quette and a commission to stroyed by an architectural- 2006". Yet Freyn's voice shares ences of good and evil that hudes remains just out of focus

Merrick is a confident story-

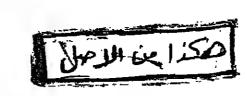
teller, but his style seems consciously resonant of other works. He has great fun creating Demcorp, the Orwellian It is 2021, and the Delta is a state authority presiding over all in 2021; and plausibly hints living on what remains of at events such as "the design horses, and his embarcation for Stansted Airport after it was deer fashion hostage crises of New Orleans. But the experi-

sea-tales: there is an easy comparison between Horse Latitudes and Heart of Darkness. Merrick builds the novel's

sensations steadily from Freyn's ostracism through his unsettling encounter with the Kurtz-like Luchenne, his malaria-ridden return with the horses, and his embarcation for

fetch two horses from the mys- terrorist cell. Cowley is en- the inveigling allure of Conrad's overpower Freyn are almost abstract, lacking the substance to haunt him over 80 years.

Either Merrick is flattering by imitation, or Freyn is a front for Merrick's own fulminations on the chimerical nature of history, memory and sanity. While the first-hand account of the distressing transport of the horses is sharp and exciting, taken as a whole, Horse Lati-



INSPIRATIONS

The music I wrote a long novel in 1969 called A Start in Life while listening to Handel's Messiah playing over and over again. I had begun my book as a short story but must have been carried away, or inspired, by the music.

The play The language and tension in many of Harold Pinter's plays enthralls me

The place Nottingham, where I was brought up, has always seemed an interesting and lively town to me. On visits there to see my two brothers we go round the pubs we have known all our lives, and by the end of the evening I have enough stories to last for as long as I can go on writing.

The film As a youth I saw George Arliss starring in Alfred E Green's Disraeli and in



in the House of Commons

adversary was making a

an effective ploy when

Constable, Turner, and

Phaidon Press pocket

books on Constable and

around the end of the

Second World War have

and sensitive figures of

sculptor Bernard Sindall.

Alan Sillitoe's new novel The Broken Chariot' is

published by Flamingo

given much solace on my travels. And the beautiful

Delacroix. The illustrated

Delacroix which came out

dealing with rivals.

The artwork

speech. This struck me as

while his political

Osbert Sitwell by Philip Ziegler, Pimilco, £14,

SCARCELY READ now, Sir Osbert was the most talented of the Sitwell trio. Yet even Ziegler is lukewarm about his poetry, while Sir Osbert deliberately made his autobiography, inexplicably a bestseller, "old-fashioned and extravagant". So why did this lacklustre talent attract one of the best biographers around? Moving in the irresistible milieu of Waugh and Connolly, Sitwell displayed an oddly contrary character, combining aggression and racism with generosity and tenderness. Despite his bluff façade he wrote to his male lover "without you, even life is death".

The House Gun by Nadine Gordimer Bloomsbury, £6.99,

HARALD AND Claudia are white middle-class professionals whose world is smashed to pieces when their only son is arrested for murder. More interested in mapping the shock waves that reverberate through their marriage than in the courtroom drama, Gordiner describes with exactitude every mance of the couple's relationship as they search for explanations. This is the new South Africa, and the boy's parents (apathetic liberals) find themselves in the hands of a black attorney - the convincingly drawn Hamilton Motsami,

PANTERSON The World and Other Places by Jeanette Winterson, Vintage, £6.99,

PAPERBACKS

BY EMMA HAGESTADT AND CHRISTOPHER HIRST

A BOOK of take-offs with an occasional crash landing. All are a joy to read, but sometimes the debts in Winterson's glittering fictional fragments are a little obvious. A hybrid of Swift and Calvino,
"Turn of the World" concerns an imaginary island where "the richest women wear, coal necklaces... while modest people sit by their fires, poking their diamonds." But the feather light "Poetics of Sex" could be by no one else: "Beneath the sheets we practise Montparnasse, that is Picasso offers to paint me but we have sex instead." Picasso, of course, is female.

Delphinium Blues by Stevie Morgan Hodder, £9.99.

282pp

WHEN HER husband leaves her for a course in "Advanced Shagging" with a young redhead, Jess is left with two children, a huge mortgage and a very pretty cottage garden. Based on her Independent column "Beloved and Bonk", Stevie Morgan's comic novel about surviving the first year of divorce breathes with a chatty intimacy. Good tips on how to avoid membership of the local "deserted wives club" and look soignée at the school gate. Before you can say "decree nisi", Morgan's ecofriendly heroine gets her life back on

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SPOKEN WORD



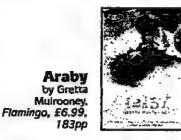
The Morte D'Arthur read by Derek Jacobi Highbridge, 9hrs, £23

A PERSONAL obsession with Malory has taught me something that I hope will be of use to audiobook enthusiasts who want a good overview. Look up any author you fancy hearing read aloud on the amazon-co.uk website and it will tell you what is available both here and in the US. This American production is wonderful: Jacobi treats it as a thriller, his voice altering in an instant to make Gawaine a thug, Lancelot a dreamer, Merlin a menace and Arthur gullible, solemn or weary.

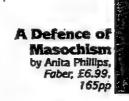


read by Simon Shepherd Chivers, 11hrs, £16.95

ANOTHER TELEPHONIC source of good things is the competitively priced, ımabridged audiobooks from Chivers (only by mail order: 0800 136919). At this price there seems no reason not to opt for the full version of William Boyd's new novel rather than the two-cassette version from Penguin (3hrs, £8.99). Half the charm of this weirdly fascinating book is its eccentric bero's manic attention to detail. Simon Shepherd gets across both his canniness and his romantic insecurity.



RORY KEENAN has spent his life being embarrassed by his loud Irish motheran enormous woman who sang out loud on buses and dressed her family in charity shop cast-offs. Now on her death bed, she is every bit as annoying, loudly requesting boiled eggs and ham and making rude remarks about the other patients on the ward. Beseiged by memories of his Sixties childhood, Rory tries to pull together the few remaining strands of family history. A pleasure to read, this unsentimental London-Irish novel bristles with uncomfortable moments between mother and son.



SKATING ON thin ice, Phillips views masochism as self-abegnation, catharsis replacing "bad blood with new blood". It is not the opposite of sadism: "The perfect choice (of partner) may be another masochist." Her fetters do not prevent intellectual gynmastics. On page 15 she quotes Genet: "it is important to get down into the dirt", but this turns out to be a metaphor on page 130, where she advocates bathing as part of the masochistic ritual "to purify the ego". Roping in such unlikely supporters as St Theresa and Simone Weil, the argument is more vertiginous than seductive.



BEING AN ageing hippy in the north of England doesn't sound too jolly, if Carol Birch's latest novel is anything to go by. Cathy Wren, writer of children's books, is eating a plate of Havarti cheese and . contemplating suicide when she receives the news that her younger sister is dying from Aids. Even when it comes to death, it seems, her sister is going to pip her to the post. Just where the oddly named Veronica Karen has chosen to die is a mystery, though, and Cathy, accompanied by her sister's old boyfriend, is forced to tour the surrounding hills and dales in her orange Mini in search of her.

The Spiritual Tourist by Mick Brown.

Bloomsbury, £7.99,

BROWN STARTS his gnostic wanderings in north London, where he visits a swami who generates quantities of vibhuti, a powdery ectoplasm. It is hard to disagree with the pithy view of Brown's companion, a singer he calls Van: "What a fookin' joker." This is by way of preamble to a prowi round the great spiritual supermarket of India. The author's search is genuine, but he never leaves his appraising intelligence behind. Visiting a guru called Sai Baba, Brown declares himself "parified", but in the next paragraph he feels "betrayed, foolish". A deepty felt, superbly crafted account.

Romantic revelations as she lay dying

Mary Flanagan encounters the New England nobs and admires a lyrical turn from an elegant stylist



DEEPLY MOVING AND FUNNY LAKIOUN ACCOUNT OF THE FIRST FEW SECONDS OF THE UNIVERSE.

EVENING IS Susan Minot's fifth hy far her most expansive and ambitious. Her protagonist, Ann Lord, is described by a friend as "like any other woman only more stylish". She grew up in the late 1950s before feminism, sexual liberation and radical politics had transformed American society. Despite three marriages and five children, she has lived a life of comfort and privilege centered on maternity, houses, cocktail parties, golf clubs, holidays and clothes. She confesses to having "let men take over my life many times", paying the price of social and financial security.

Now 65 and a widow, she is dying of cancer in her elegant Cambridge house, her son and three daughters in anxious and irritated attendance. There are bedside visits from old friends and a trusted nurse to administer injections.

Ann lies helpless, overwhelmed alternately by pain and her teeming hallucinogenic memories. Gradually she disengages from her familiar surroundings, amazed to discover that the review of one's life which accompanies dying is not a linear pro-



Evening by Susan Minot Chatto & Windus, £15.99, 264pp

gression but a "snowfall of images". Her most vivid memory is of a weekend in Maine 40 years before when she was a bridesmaid at her best friend's lavish wedding. There she met and fell passionately in love with the had to struggle with much of anything dazzling Harris Arden, both choosing to ignore the imminent arrival of

Maria, his fog-bound fiancée.

However she more than compensates with a new lyricism, a broadened scope and the brilliant management

of a complex structure. Vintage has just reissued her earlier books to coincide with Evening. In Monkeys, her first novel, she proved herself an acute observer of family dynamics. The novel is lean and edgy full of stinging insights and free of authorial excursions. It's point of view is fresh and close-up.

Lust, however, is urban and cynical. These stories of self-destructive young women tell of good fortune quandered and freedom badly used. Folly, a clever if tepid period piece with pretentions to Edith Wharton, is a kind

of dress rehearsal for Evening. Both novels involve rich Bostonians whose exclusive milieu admits no rebels, eccentrics, artists, members of the working class: no one who has besides their own emotions.

Minot is keenly aware of the tacit faria, his fog-bound fiancée. pressures exerted by the group upon the account of their brief affair is the individual. Both Ann, and Lillian quite mesmerising, though it can sail in Fblby, bravely flap their wings, but

queasily close to Mills and Boon. in the end they choose safety over sent suffering with imagined exin the codes of their class.

At 25, Ann is bright and genuine, if somewhat naive, aspiring to independence and untainted by hypocrisy. She also has a lovely voice but stops singing as she grows older. She senses that something

precious has been lost, her soul, perhaps, her true self. The group wins. The self is banished or buried and then forgotten. Both heroines lapse into conformity, not so much unhappy as unrealised.

Ann associates Harris with the discovery of that self, though he is lost forever at the very moment he becomes hers. Nobly or foolishly, she releases him, while the reader is given a more objective glimpse of his character. Is his inability to leave Maria motivated by loyalty

or secret relief? Minot is particularly good on the evocative power of objects. She is rhapsodic without losing control of her formal elements and Evening is a beautifully plaited and convincing whole. Memory fragments are intercut with the wedding story and pre-

litamies are reminiscent of her abandoned Catholicism and of William Faulker's streams of consciousness. Faulkner also provides the epigraph, directing us to another who once lay dying.

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REPAIRS Programme

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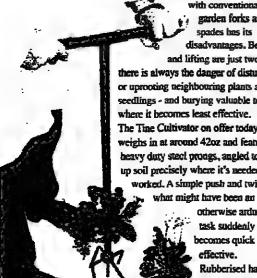
Initially, Minot's new lyricism seems too genteel and the privilege she affects to disparage is rendered very seductively.

Yet her poetic style lends import to the trivial and transitory and to what would otherwise be a shallow life. It allows her into previously unexplored human territories, and to a condition of benign nihilism, in which nothing is without significance, though the significance is impossible to define.

When her daughter asks who is the Harris of her mother's ravings, Ann answers, "Harris is myself". She was fully alive in his embrace as she is fully alive in her final moments. The two experiences are similarly described That "true self" that she had forgotten or assumed that he had lost is recaptured and restored, on the very brink of its annihilation.

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Catherine Cookson's popularity is . undimmed. The Thursday Priend has gone straight into the top five and ber fans will be pleased to know that her

into 2801. No change at the top of the non-fiction list this week. Artrachair from irrepressible Alan Tite

hope they'll doze off and awake to find their gardens miraculously

eraided by Bruce Jones's Official ITV Por mula One Guide. Compiled by Bookwatch on sales over seven days ending 21 February 1999 O Bookwatch Ltd, 1999

TITLE	AUTHOR/PUBLISHED	PRICE	MLY SA
The Testament:	John Grisham (Century)	£16.99	0.0
Come Together	Josle Lloyd & Emlyn Rees (Arrow)	£5.99	9,9
Single & Single	John le Carré (Hodder)	£16.99	. 8,5
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Liar Birds	Lucy Fitzgerald (Black Swan)	£5.99	1,1
The Death of Amy Parris	T R Bowen (Perguin)	€5,99 ₹	1,0
City Girl	Patricia Scanlan (Bantam)	£5.99°	9
TITLE	-AUTHOR/PUBLISHER		
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Men Are From Mars	John Gray (Thorsons)	£14.99 £8.99	3,5
		£14.99 £8.99	3,3
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Men Are From Mars The Year 1000 Little Book of Feng Shiii	John Gray (Thorsons) Robert Lacey & Danny Danziger (Little, Bro Littlan Too (Element)	£14.99 £8.99 mm) £12.99	3,3 3,3 2,5 1,8
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Notes from a Big Country Bit Bryson (Doubleday)

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COUNTRY & GARDEN

A little shady practice

Many shrubs thrive on sheltered north- and east-facing walls. Anna Pavord chooses the most spectacular

hade is too often treated as the gardener's whipping boy. In truth, it is not half as bad as it is made out to be. Shady walls and fences can be othed as elegantly as sunny ones, ovided that the shade is caused by ck of sun, not lack of light. A hefty camore, dripping over your ience, ill create problems, particularly if is not your tree. Lifting the canopy that is, taking off a few of the lowst branches - can improve the enronment dramatically for plants nderneath. The problem will be to ersuade your neighbour to coperate. Wine often helps. Without the putative sycamore,

orth- and east-facing walls present w problems, though you may not as colourful a display as on my walls. Foliage will be excellent. North walls are almost easier than ast. They get no direct sun at all, hough in summer a few slanting eams may drop in at the beginning and the end of the day. In a new garlen, you need to spend some time vatching walls and the amount of fight they get before you start plantng anything at all,

East walls are more treacherous. They are cold, but get a burst of sun, there is any, at the beginning of the play - fatal to plants frosted overnight. Most people know that east walls are bad news for camellias. Other plants can react frist as badly. Cells that may be frozen need to thaw out gently, just like water pipes. An early blast of sunshine may cause too quick a thaw, rupturing cell walls. Plants collapse and may die. I lost a 30-ft 'Mermaid' rose on an east wall, though it had a trunk as thick as my arm and seemed invinable. Chaenomeles and pyracantha have never been affected. More surprisingly, neither has the evergreen shrub piptanthus, with its fine, hand-shaped leaves.

The chaenomeles (japonica) is al-ready in bloom, with blood-red flowers on dark wood. I like them spreadeagled on a wall, pinned flat and pruned fairly severely after flowering to eliminate twigs that try to push forward. This makes it easier to grow other things in front, but also seems to give it a more oriental air, like the t.vo-dimensional branches of japonica you see in a Japanese print or a piece of fabric.
Crimson and Gold is the one to

go for if you like your colours rich and uncompromising. It will not grow much beyond 4ft. 'Knap Hill Scarlet' is equally brilliant. If gentle introspection is more your thing, choose he gentle, pink-and-white Moerloosei', fast-growing, wide-spreading,



Pyracantha Flava, one of the wows of James I's garden

as broad as that.

Pyracantha is also best when it gets some corrective training. Some time ago, I planted one on our east wall, to the right-hand side of the kitchen window, a biggish window of old-fashioned, small square panes. Over the years I've trained the pyracantha to make another "window". alongside, the branches criss-crossing to make "panes" against the walls. It's slightly dotty, but it makes me smile when I turn in at our gate. The blackbirds like it, too.

Pyracantha was one of the wows of James I's garden, when it was a rarity newly brought in from the east. It is very popular now, and deservedly, as happy on a north wall

of 8ft, though its spread may be twice and gives two meaty performances year. I prefer it in berry to when it is in flower. Bees think otherwise, It is spiny, but not viciously so, and is not difficult to bandle.

The biossom is the same on all varieties, white with a heavy, musty scent. Berries can be yellow ('Flava' or 'Soleil d'Or'), orange ('Orange Glow' or 'Orange Charmer') or red ('Dart's Red' or 'Waterert'). I am not fussy about the times I trim pyracanthas to shape, leaping in with the secateurs whenever the whiskers of growth start to get in the way of the chequerboard pattern.

I started by training one stem up the side of the window, then choosing horizontal branches to train out from that main stem. You have to

themselves, but pyracantha is so vigorous that that is rarely a problem. When there were six or seven stems stretched out parallel at about 15-in intervals against the wall. I started looking for upright growths sprouting from the horizontals that would turn the straight lines into a series of squares. It is far more complicated to describe than it is to do.

Fire blight, a fungal disease that floats in on the air and ravages the foliage, is pyracantha's worst enemy. There is no cure. But don't lie awake worrying about this scourge. It may never happen.

Because rain tends to come in from the south and the west, northand east-facing walls and fences act as barriers, preventing the ground

wetted. Wall shrubs on any aspect do better if they are planted a little distance - say, 18in - out from the

more moisture if you dig in a good quantity of manure and compost before you plant. Mulch all wall shrubs regularly in autumn and spring. There has been no lack of water this winter, but drought is not just a summer problem. East and north

wall. The ground will also retain

walls face winter's coldest and most drying winds. Evergreens suffer more than deciduous shrubs. Foliage loses moisture faster than the roots can take it up. Leaves turn brown

This gloomy scenario need not worry us this year, at least. Too often gardening is seen as a series of prob-

pleasures to be indulged. Here is an excellent pleasure for an indulgent north wall: Azora microphylla. This shrub has small dark, shining, evergreen leaves and powdery tufts of bright yellow flowers that smell

strongly of vanilla. It will not do well on excessively limey soils and may keel over completely in a tough winter. In pampered city gardens, wrapped in the central heating that escapes through windows and doors, it will thrive. It flowers in March, needs no pruning and suffers from no particular nervous tics - a paragon.

Where there is some shelter from wind, the twining climber Celastrus scandens will perform well on a north or east wall. Its season is

A BOOK OF **CLIMBERS**

ANYONE WITH a bare wall to fill should get hold of Creative Climbers by Paul Williams (Conran Octopus, £12.99). Mr Williams is head gardener at one of my favourite gardens, Bourton House, Bourton-on-the-Hill in Gloucestershire, which I've written about before. Here is a writer you can trust. All the information is practical and relevant. There is a brief but inspiring directory of interesting climbers, such as Aconitum hemsleyanum, a lovely climbing monkshood that has hooded mauve flowers in late summer.

Throughout the book are practical projects, designed to find solutions for a wide range of garden problems. What should you grow on a balcony's trellis divider? White-flowered solamum, with rhodochiton and oldfashioned, scented sweet peas, suggests Mr Williams. What can you use to support scrambling pumpkins in a vegetable garden? Blue plastic water pipe, threaded through with thin dowel, is the answer. The pipe, strengthened by the wooden dowel, can be bent into a semicircular igloo which will support climbing French beans and tomatoes as well as squashes.

Some of the projects are too fanciful to take seriously. If I had a stepladder as good as the one shown on pages 66 67 of this book, I would not leave it awkwardly abandoned in the middle of a flower border, even to support a clematis as lovely as the 'Duchess of Albany'. But that is a quibble. The book is as instructive as it is beautiful.

vessels produced from insignificant flowers explode to expose startling red seeds. It is very vigorous; it likes a good mouthful of fence or porch to get its teeth into. Once established, it needs little nannying.

All these plants will give brilliance to shade. If you want something cooler, choose the white-flowered climbing Hydrangea petiolaris. Or plant the compact upright shrub Euonymus fortunei 'Silver Queen', with its fine variegated leaves. When it is established, thread it through with a pale clematis such as Marie Boisselot' or 'Lady Northcliffe'.

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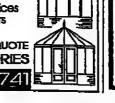


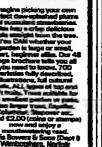
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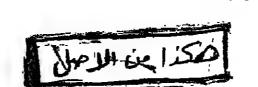
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The English hedgerow massacre

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COUNTRY **MATTERS**



HART-DAVIS

he hedge that separ-ates our lowest field from our next-door neighbour had grown into a formidable barrier of hazel, hawthorn, elder and bramble, with a few young elms rising above the thicket. For 12 years we had deliberately left the hedge untrimmed, letting it increase in height and width so that it made a good wind-break and gave our animals shelter from the westerly gales that roar up the valley.

Then, alas, the elms began to die. They had looked extremely promising, and had reached a height of maybe 20ft; but I had feared all along that they were doomed, because it is common knowledge that once young trees become big enough to act as hosts, the beetle bearing Dutch elm disease returns to infest them. Sure enough, by last summer our new elms were moribund, and now they are dead as dodos.

Our only option is to fell and burn them – a melancholy task, on which we are now engaged. At the same time, we are cutting back the under-brush to the line of the fence, which had become deeply buried. Not owning a flail mower, we are

tackling the job on foot, I wielding a chain-saw, my wife peeling away swaths of intertwined branch and bramble as I cut them free. The trunks of the elms are at most six inches in diameter, so that they are easily sawn through; but the fact that they rise through mounds of thorns and spikes makes them uncomfortable fellows to tackle.

Several times I have been forced to my knees by a tree keeling over and squashing a mass of brambles down on top of me - an event that puts me into intimate contact with the hedge and encourages me to think about field boundaries in general. One obvious fact is that, quite apart from their primary functions stock, they make tremendous havens for wildlife.

The one we are pruning is home to numerous rabbits, and its dense foliage contains many old nests of blackbirds, chaffinches, tits and so on. In autumn, blackberries, elderberries and hawthorn berries provide birds with food. At several points, badgers and foxes have forced passages under the sheepwire, and at low level there is a mass of the dead wood and litter beloved of entomologists (hawthorn is believed to support more than 200 species of insect: blackthorn over 150). As for shelter - the grass on the first five yards above the leeward side always grows more lushly than

that farther up the field. For the past half century, hedges have had a bad time: many thousands of miles have been grubbed out in the name of agricultural efficiency, and thousands more spoilt by neglect. Between 1984 and 1990 alone, 75,000 miles disappeared; from 1990 to 1993 the loss continued



Hedges have been ripped up in the name of agricultural efficiency for the past 50 years, but now their value to wildlife and farmers is being recognised by policy makers

at the rate of 11,000 miles a year. This massacre caused widespread public outcry. People clearly feel in their bones that hedges are part of our history, an essential feature of the English landscape. Countless fields were created by the of defining property and controlling Enclosures Acts of the 18th and 19th centuries, when millions of seedling thorn bushes were planted, especially in the Midlands.

Regular shapes, square or rectangular, are likely to date from that time; but there is ample evidence to show that many hedges are far older, some dating back at least a thousand years. A celebrated formula lays down that the number of woody species found in every 30-yard stretch approximates the age of the hedge in centuries.

It is criminal that farmers have so abused an ancient asset. Now. though, there are signs that the tide is turning. The main agent for improvement has been the Hedgerow Regulations issued by the Department of the Environment during the summer of 1997. These rules require anyone wishing to remove a bedge to get permission from their local aua hedge without leave may race an unlimited fine, and mar also be required to reinstate the barrier.

A considerable amount of damage

the new legislation, when farmers, anticipating the changes ahead, amalgamated small fields or straightened out awkward boundaries. But now that several people have been fined, the rules do seem to be working - especially as their prohibitions are reinforced by incentives in the form of grants for restoring and creating bedges and walls. These can be obtained under the Country Stewardship scheme run by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Here in the Cotswolds, ESA field boundaries consist of walls (on top of the hills, where stone abounds) and hedges (in the valleys, where far less stone is readily available). We can now get a grant of £4 per metre for planting a new hedge and £28 per metre for building a field wall - sums that probably cover about half the costs involved. As a result, an en-

scheme for Environmentally Sens-

couraging amount of walling and hedging is in progress. Along with enlightened government policy on boundaries has come thority. Anybody who does grub out a better understanding of the benefits that well-managed field margins offer to agriculture and wildlife. Research by the Game Conservancy Trust has shown that

was done in the months preceding a six-yard-wide "conservation headland round the edge of an arable field, which is then selectively sprayed so as to leave some broadleaved weeds and the insects assobenefit to birds such as partridges largely on protein from insects in their first few weeks of life.

Similarly, a 460-yard beetle bank earth heaped up in a line across a field, and planted with long, tussocky grass, costing altogether about £80 to create - can harbour so many Fisheries and Food (Maff), or the beneficial, aphid-eating insects that it may save the farmer £300 a year in labour and pesticides, and earn him the same again in extra grain

In this climate, it is no surprise to find that the South of England Hedge-Laying Society is flourishing as never before. At its launch in 1984 it had 10 members; now it has 124. The National Hedge-laying Society has more than 200 members, and so many people want to go in for each vear's national competition that it has become difficult to find long enough runs of hedge on which to let entrants loose. With 100 entrants tackling 10 yards each, 1,000 yards are needed - and bucky is the owner who gets all that expertly cut and laid

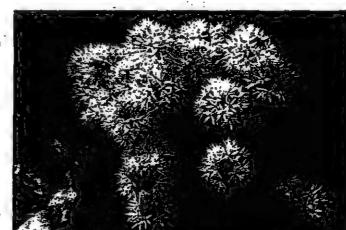
NATURE NOTES

ALREADY, EARLIER than ever shooting up in the woods on the escarpment. At the moment they are only three or four inches high, but the plants will soon create a dense carpet nearly a foot deep, and in April they will throw out a mass of star-shaped white flowers.

I have often wondered what wild creatures make of this sudden change in their

Badgers, in particular, must find it rather bewildering. One week they are going about their nocturnal business over a bare, grey-brown woodland floor. The next, they are pushing through head-high, dark-green

vegetation. Colour is certainly less important to them than smell. for they operate mostly in the dark, and see largely in black and white. But as their sense of smell is reckoned to be at least



Wild gartic is sprouting early this year

penetrates even into the eggs of

chickens which peck out bulbs,

500 times as acute as that of a and farmers' wives used to say human being, what on earth do that a rabbit that had run they make of wild garlic, which through garlic could go into the pot without salt or pepper, as it has an overpowering scent? So strong is the tang that it came into the kitchen fully

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Space age in the provinces

ed two ways. One group said it The assumption is that there is was their dream and how lucky no one amusing to it. The others were aghast and prophesied disaster.

"No one will want to come and see you camping miserably in some freezing dump," said my friend the historian Adam Ludlow and the Zamoyski encouragingly. A very chie Parisian PR,

with whom I had had friendly professional dealings over five years of working on a glossy magazine, said: "For a break, perhaps?" But when I told her it was permanent and that I was not even going to have a flat in London, she just looked from me to my new business card with a mixture of horror and pity. She left it on the table and I had to remind her to take it. The idea of calling someone in Shropshire was clearly beyond her.

you: "How you can stand living

in the country?" what they re-

ally mean is that surely life with-

Welsh Marches have always attracted writers and artists, which is not to say that there are not perfectly interesting people farming and running small businesses as well who have been here for generations. As for romance, as July Cooper realised long since, there is

see outside London

This is particu-

and no culture.

true where

are.

larly un-

restoring the glint to the eye. As for urban comforts, when my firsty New York friend Marianne came un, we were able to provide her with her morning cappuccino and all the newspapers at the Cookhouse, a former pub now run by the team who used to own Waltons in

nothing like fresh air for

Mortimers, the ultra-fashion-favoured by the likes of Bianca Jagger and Jackie

Onassis. He now has a tree nursery. She winced at the clothes that people ing to go shopping but marvelled at both the an-

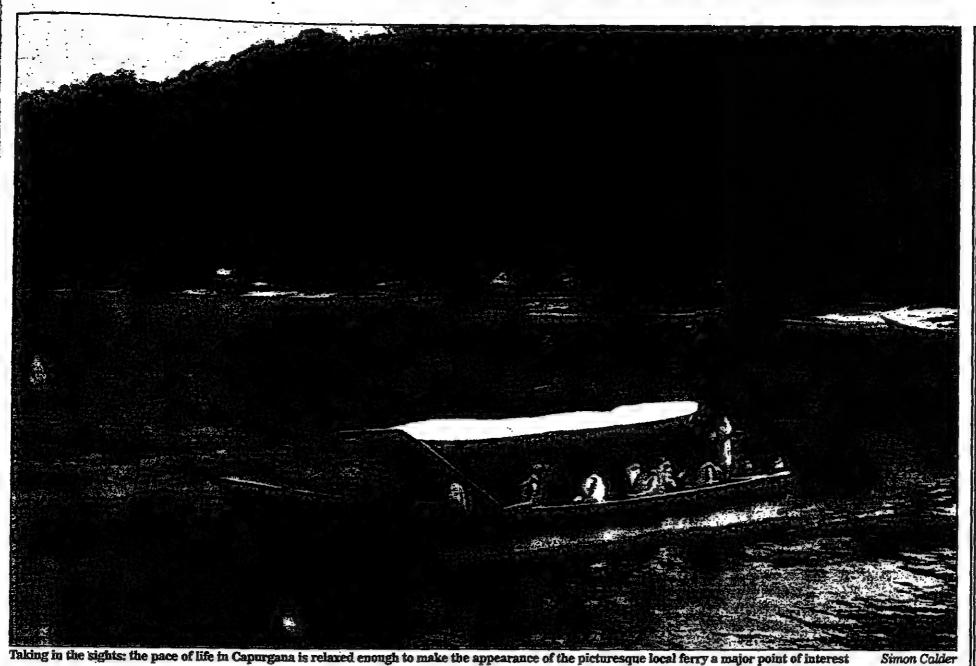
tiques and the array of butchers shops. On a practical level the best thing is the space. To have this much elbow room in London, you would Simple things make so having a utility room with so that buckets of dirty water from washing the floor do not have to go down the kitchen sink and there is someboots, children and

up. I can hang things to dry in space for a second fridge, kept exclusively for drinks. Most luxurious of all, there is box room for the junk I should have got rid off when we moved but didn't and a shed for all my new toys like the utterly useless leaf picker-upper bought by mail order in a fit of gardening enthusiasm last autumn

I admit it is muddy. I need gumboots even to walk down the lane to the post office in the village a mile and a half away. It is also smelly - the cattle are in for the winter and they still go in for muck-spreading round need to be a billionaire. here. But the lane has been there since Neolithic times. part of the network of green lanes which linked Wales to the a second downstairs sink Roman road system to the east and its hedgerows are showing new signs of spring

> When we lived in London, I thought February was the time to jet off to Barbados. Now I could not bear the thought of missing the primroses.

XTHE INDEPENDENT KENYA BEACH & SAFARI It may be muddy, but living in the country gives you plenty of elbow room. By Celestria Noel A 30% SAVING ON THE BROCHURE PRICE. 15 NIGHTS FROM £1,176 PER PERSON DEPARTING 2ND MAY 1999 WHEN WE moved to the coun-out them, or people like them, cated company in the form of able restaurant on Manhat-room to leave the ironing board available, ask for details. try last year our friends react- must be unbearably boring. the man who used to manage tan's Upper East Side once



To the ends of the earth

A hair-raising flight over forests and mountains deposits you in the remote Colombian town of Capurgana, an undiscovered paradise on the edge of the last great wilderness. By Simon Calder

adore fellow passengers? As the tiny (and inny) Twin Otter swooped and swerved into the aviation equivalent of a three-point turn, the besuited businessman next to me yelled above the third most dangerous airport in Colombia.*

Thanks, pal. We were heading straight for a mountainside draped in rich forest whose precise arboreal composition I was about to become alarmingly familiar with. I wondered whether to ask the obvious question about which two other airports could possibly be more dangerous than this.

But I contented myself with gripping the armrests, gritting my teeth and gulping pitifully as the wheels scraped the treetops. We performed an ungainly U-turn moments before making. contact with one of the most beautiful backdrops anywhere in the Caribbean.

That's the thing about Colombia: South America's more seductive nation satiates all your travel desires, but only after making you suffer. To get this far, I had flown from Britain on one of the world's more dangerous airlines to Bogota where dozens of European tourists had died last year when their plane slammed into a mountain near the Colombian capital; hopped from there to Pereira, in a region devastated a month ago by an earthquake; overnighted in Medellin, spiritual home of the world's cocaine industry; and climbed aboard a dodgy-looking plane with a dodgier-looking crew, all sunglasses and hyperactivity, to an area where narco-traffickers,



happy soldiers coalesce into a nightmare of violence.

I wouldn't hear a word said pilots, not the armed gangs), mind, after they successfully brought the aircraft under anyway, and then promptly

outpost of the most mixed-up, try in the world. Everything about the place is soft. The warm air envelops you with comforting caresses that ease away the cold sweat

against these fine fellows (the some sort of control and bounced into land on a space that looked smaller and less cared for than a supermarket car park. My fellow passenger looked serene: maybe he was on some kind of medication. I speculated. I glowered at him

with great delight into the streets of Capurgana – which turn out to be paved with sand (if that is not a civil-engineering impossibility). And the people who inhabit the town at the end of the world are gently

of fear. Instead of sweating

across Tarmac, your feet melt

cheered up when I observed

that the airport bus was, in fact,

In one of the most peaceful-

and beautiful locations that has

the good fortune to be washed

by the gentle Caribbean Sea.

there is little need for transport.

This is Capurgana, the last

a denkey and wagon.

welcoming and intensely jolly. Since heading into the almost-sheer rock face that overhangs Capurgana is not a rescued by a Polar beer, salad

viable option, every path aims and the surroundings. You of the Equator, where Colombia towards the sea. Follow any of them, and you reach a broad arc of shore. The beach is a sandy trampoline billowing out to meet the Caribbean then retreating playfully from the stewardess carried it like a toy preposterously blue sea. All and dropped it in the hold with the colours seem to have been artificially enhanced in order to brochures. But the tourist hordes have yet to materialise.

Hungry? A fair crowd gathers at the only functioning restaurant in town, which sprawls out on a pier striped in deck-chair pastels. The confidence of your swagger towards a table is only momentarily dented by the sight of a fence made from the flattened fuse lage of a Cessna that clearly didn't make the turn in time.

Whatever you want, Capurgana will deliver. So long, that is, as what you want is red snapper grilled to imperfection but

Furthermore, dengue fever

ends and the umbilical of Panamight reflect back to the flight here, or more particularly the ma begins. Indeed, should you point on boarding when a reever tire of this Impressionist volver was taken from the rendering of bliss, you can always go to another country: bothersome passenger, the Panama is just a walk away. "Most of the time the path the rest of the luggage. How follows the coast," advises one Oh yes: "One of the least secure scenery," recommends another and most disordered countries "The hills are alive with the in the world." Yet I dare you not sound of bandidos," is the summary offered by your lunch to be entranced by the sheer

rancy of the people. Also, it's fun - and affordable. Life in Colombia might be cheap, but so is the cost of living. As you watch the unwittingly picturesque ferry that serves as the local bus drift off along the coast, content yourself with the knowledge that few people will ever experience the

beauty of Colombia and smitten

with the eloquence and vib-

odds and advice, to take the high trail towards the Panamanian border, then seek local help. A 10-year-old called William will escort you to an improbable looking gap in the for-est. He will scrawl a map that, sultry side of life at this particular point seven degrees north were it remotely legible, would certainly turn out to be fanciful. Offer him a few thousand pesos, then stagger, sweat and swear through the undergrowth until you reach a hilltop

companions, one of whom

turned out to be the chap in the

suit from the plane. (Those

two more dangerous airports,

by the way, are Popayan and

If you decide, against the

Manzinales.)

tablet announcing you are entering the Republic of Panama. You could, at this point, retrace your steps. But a wild scream stops you dead. It turns out to be the afternoon flight from Medellin making the usual approach. There must be some other way out of here, but it turns out to be to press on across one of the world's last great wildernesses - the Darien Gan.

For the further adventures of Simon Calder, listen to BBC Radio 4 tomorrow at noon, for the first of three parts of the series Bridging the Gop

The problem with freebies

THE THING about normal jobs is that people rarely send you presents. The thing about travel journalism is that people send you stuff all the time books for review, copies of specialist journals and offers of free travel. This week, I propose to conduct a ramble through this week's postbag. First, you will know that

good reviews in newspapers sell books. With this in mind, the travel desk of The Independent is circumspect about reviews for guidebooks. Only when a travel guide has been thoroughly tested will we venture a strong opinion on it: I think the last to benefit was Frewin Poffley's invaluable and hilarious Greek Island Hopping (and yes, Thomas Cook Publishing, you can

quote us on that). This year promises to be quite a bruiser for travel guidebooks. In a few weeks, AA Publishing will move into the independent travellers' market. In the summer, Virgin is expected to resuscitate its city guide series. And this week. Footprint Guides unveiled a fresh paperback format, sending journalists books on Singapore, Peru and Andalucia.

What intrigued me most was an effusive quote on the back of the Andalucia guide attributed to The Independent. A check failed to identify any such review - for the simple reason that it was not printed in this newspaper but in Saga Magazine. I don't know whether to be more alarmed at the erroneous credit or the implication that our pages are hard to distinguish from a publication aimed at more mature travellers.

DO YOU recall a shortlived experiment on the short-lived airline Dan-Air where meals for both outward and return flights were installed in the ack trays? Neither of I, but it was alluded to this week in AITO News, a publication for members of the Association of Independent Tour Operators. "Some of us will no doubt still remember Dan-Air introducing seatback catering on their BAC 1-11 fleet," writes Alan Murray of Viking Aviation. He then reveals: "With the ingenious use of a nail file or coin, one could open the inbound meal and have seconds." I'm trying to visualise how this worked. Can anyone explain, and

MICKEY MOUSE and his spouse could, according to the latest edition of USA Now, be making for Manhattan, Or at least that's what I infer from the assertion that the recently opened New York Convention and Visitors' Bureau in London "will help tour operators concentrating on MICE itineraries". I called the office (0171-437 8300) but

supply either photographic

evidence or a diagram?



SIMON CALDER

People send me free travel offers all the time. Here's why I always decline them

IF BOOKS and arcane publications don't sound much like presents, how about this: free travel for you and your family. free insurance, and even the chance to bump fare-paying passengers

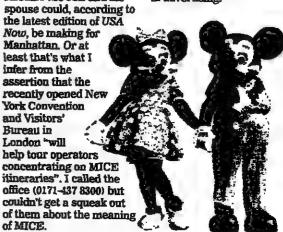
Among the freebies that have crowded on to my desk this week, an insurance company offered me an annual travel policy. This could be handy for journalists planning to take a whole family to Alton Towers Hotel ("the place your children will beg to visit") or travelling by train in France ("complimentary or discounted travel, in return for editorial").

Then, halfway through some complex discussions about an important consumer issue, an airline PR suddenly said: "How do you fancy a week in Monserrat?" - something of a non securitur because we were discussing the separation-out of passenger service charges at the time, rather than dream islands in the Caribbean.

Strangest of all is the airline that wrote to travel editors offering free top-grade membership of its frequent-flyer club. This doesn't just allow hacks to relax with the help of a drink or two in the airport executive lounge; it also guarantees a seat on a flight which is NILY DOOKED. JUST DOV impressed would you be if you were bumped from your reserved seat on a flight to make room for a travel journalist?

I shall be declining all these offers, even though the very same airline had only a week earlier demoted me to the lowest grade of its frequent-flyer scheme because I had failed to score enough points over the year.

Airlines, hotels and tourist offices don't offer all these freebies just because they're nice people: the Spanish tourist board estimates that trips by foreign journalists bring coverage worth over £30m in advertising.



Far T. HILL



During the dry season, between December and April - anyone

seeking to make this trip at other times of the year will have a miserable time. Getting there Simon Calder paid £422 for a return flight from London to Bogota through South American Experience (0171-976 5511), and a further £120 for flights onwards to Pereira, Medellin and Capurgana, At present. Journey Latin America (0181-747 3108) has some

excellent fares on the Colombian airline Avianca to a range of destinations. Red tape British travellers do not require visas to visit either

Colombia or Panama, although you can expect a comprehensive going-over from both sets of immigration officials. And if you think that's bad, wait until you arrive back in Britain from Colombia. Medical care

The main threat is from mosquito-borne diseases. A strain of malaria resistant to chloroquine and paludrine has been reported.

is a growing threat in tropical regions. It is therefore tremendously convenient to avoid being bitten by mosquitos. Consult a travel medicine specialist such as Masta (0891 224100) for up-to-date advice. Travel advice The Foreign Office issued this warning one month ago: Violence and kidnapping are serious problems in urban Colombia. In rural areas there is a risk of being caught up in guerrilla or

paramilitary attacks, or

The border area with

opportunistic kidnapping.

other areas outside government control. Visitors should not stray away from major urban areas or from established tourist routes and should be aware that even these can become dangerous, usually without warning. It is often safer to travel by air than to risk a road journey. Road travel after dark is extremely dangerous. Visitors should consult the British Embassy in Bogota (tel 317 6690) and the local authorities before finalising their travel plans."

Panama and the Uraba

region of Antioquia are

especially high risk, as are

SOMETHING TO DECLARE

NEWS FROM THE TRAVEL WORLD

With-frills air travel for silly

Since Air UK was taken over by the Dutch national airline and rebranded KLMuk, it has borne the brunt of new competition from no-frills airlines. Almost every route on which it flies from its home base of Stansted faces competition from BA's offshoot, Go, based at the same airport, or Debonair and easy-

Jestrom nearby Luton.

Muk has responded by cutting fares to no-frills levels, while still offering frills such as Paris or Amsterdam for £10

deen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Jersey Manchester, Newcastle, Amsterdam, Frankfurt and Paris cost £48 return, while Rome and Milan are £79. You may book direct with KLMuk on 0990 074 074 or - unlike most nofrills airlines - through a travel agent. Best of all, the offer is valid until the end of September. The catch? No travel on Fridays or Sundays, and you must stay away for two nights.

Eurolines (0990 143 219) has extended its silly-deal strategy to include Paris and Amsterdam by coach for a tenner (each way). You must book a fortnight in advance and complete travel by 28 March.

tax and new UK Passenger Service Charge" - Debonair The prices are good: Barcelona, Bargain of the week 2: Madrid, Rome or Munich for be interesting to see if the

A likely story: "Prices include

"new UK Passenger Service story we have been monitoring closely for several weeks: there is no new charge.

British airlines are pretending that there is, but in fact it an avalanche is simply one of the existing Defensive act payments made by airlines to airports. Neither have the airports increased their fees to airlines, but carriers are pretending that they have. It will \$39, through the Luton-based Chancellor notes how easily the top of the slide.

Bargain of the week 1: free snacks and drinks. Aber- After our story last week on low-fare airline (0541 500 300). the airlines seem to have got 2. Shout, others may hear or week fully air travel for silly deen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, London to Dublin for £9.99, But the assertion about the away with back-door fare in- see you. creases, and decides to raise slope above the fracture.

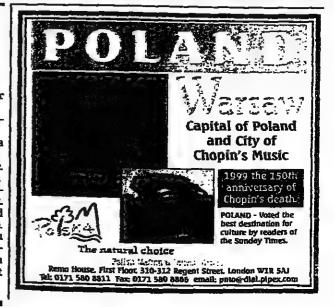
4. If the avalanche includes a Charge is tosh. To reiterate the more revenue by increasing Air Passenger Duty in the hard slab, try to stay on top. Budget on 9 March.

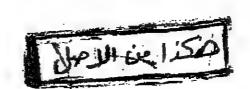
> Defensive action is difficult, but advice from the International Mountain Rescue Handbook (Constable, £18.99) may help to save your life: 1. Plunge an ice axe into the

undersurface, to keep you near

3. Rum to the side, or jump up-

5. Get rid of rucksacks, skis etc. 6. Try to roll out of the debris. Trouble spots: How to survive 7. Swimming motions sometimes help, sometimes not Keep a hand over your nose and mouth, to help you to breathe. B. As the avalanche slows, you may be able to get some purchase on the debris. Make a desperate effort at least to get a hand through the surface.





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EVITA

THE GROLS IN

Snowdonia may be very cold and wet in winter but it's a magnificently desolate and invigorating place. By Laura Ivill

Stairway to Welsh heaven

s we pulled into the deserted car park opposite the end of the Watkin path leading up to Snowdon, I pulled on my layers of winter walking gear. As my Brasher bog as went over fluffy socks, I thought back to the last time I was here, in 1993. I had hobbled down the path after climbing Snowdon in complete agony, my Nike so-called walking boots (which I'd bought to go clubbing in) having rubbed my heals raw Unbelievably, I then took them to the Lake District the following New Year and twisted my ankle leaping across a snow-covered stream. It was at this point that I invested £100 or so in a pair of boots that are so light and comfortable vou'd hardly know you had them on.

I decided to try them out on an offseason weekend break to Snowdonia with my boyfriend, Tim. At this time, the roads are almost empty. and the countryside is not jammed steps in whatever undignified man-with day trippers. The weather can ner you can. In this lonely landscape he unpredictable, but when you end up in a hostelry with a blazing log fire and a glass of good stout after a day in magnificently desolate, a steeply rising pass: waterfalls on wild terrain, you'll vow never to go ir fummer again.

Our first day's climb to the summit of Yr Aran at 2,451ft (747 metres), was a delight. First the gentle stone Watkin path led upwards past a instant, we were into the barely lifting, thick morning mist. We had springy grass underfoot all the way and suddenly, at around 1,500ft, we popped up through the mist to witness stunning views of the Snowdon Massif, right across to Crib Goch; a rare treat since Snowdon is almost invariably shrouded in clouds.

The next day's walking couldn't have been more different. We were promised rain, rain and more rain, with 35 knots of wind, and sleet on higher ground. Undeterred, we planned to climb Glyder Fawr at 3,278ft (999 metres). Thanks to an EU-funded enterprise to create a nature reserve here, some kind souls had laid a granite path around the lake and part-way up the mountain. Although you get a good grip walking on granite, it burts like hell if you bang a shin or an elbow on it. An elbow? Well yes, the path gets so steep in places that you have to clamber up and down great stone we were both reminded of the stone stairways in The Hobbit.

We approached Glyder Fawr via either side cascaded down the sheer cliffs like great weeping wounds. Standing on huge boulders with the water crashing down around us we paused to admire the drama of the moment - and, more unexpectedly, the smell of toast. Even in such a



The rocky Watkin path leads you gently past stream and waterfall to the springy grass beyond and a great view of the Snowdon Massif

wild sort of place as this, the smell was so distinctive that we knew it must really have been someone making toast. Sure enough, further ou a huddle of walkers had found a cavera, and were sheltering from the wind and rain enjoying a snack

As we ascended higher, past another tiny tarn, the ambience quickly changed as we found ourselves in thick, eerie cloud. In fierce conditions such as these, with bitter cold from the extra beight, deteriorating visibility and the possibility of exhaustion, you suddenly become a winter mountaineer. The danger of getting

separated and lost is a real threat and I had to call out to Tim to slow down before he disappeared into the swirling clouds. I was struggling; the mountain was steep and featureless; the wind was driving freezing rain right through my ancient Gore-Tex jacket and stabbing at my exposed face. We passed a few anonymous waterproofed bods, and I thought that if couples enjoy this kind of leisure activity together they're

Tim and I are incompatible walkers in this respect; I like to spend a little time, at least, looking around

probably very well suited.

at the view, whereas he measures the success of a trip by its time-todistance ratio. Mostly he remains just within shouting distance ahead. But, to be fair, today there was no view, except of his faint outline.

The worst thing for me about climbing in cloud is not just that you can't see where you're going; it's that you can't see how far it is to the top. As I became exhausted on Glyder Fawr, determination was the only thing that kept me going - that and the fact that Tim had the compass, the water and the chocolate. Dragging myself up through the driving

rain, I knew that the summit must be near. For the last half an hour I'd been wondering how much further it could be. Surely it must be here? Then I saw a huge dark object looming out of the cloud, and my heart

A great jumble of boulders marked the dramatic top of the mountain. As I poked my head up over the top, the clouds roared in my face like the steam from a great boiling vat. Huddling behind these rocks

sank. "No." I gasped. "It goes on and

on. I'm not going any further."

"We're here," Tim shouted back. And

we finished the water and crunched on cold chocolate. That evening we dined in the Ty Gwyn restaurant. I felt I had spent the better part of the day inside a washing machine, but it had certainly been invigorating.

Laura and Tim stayed in the Snow donia National Park at Aberconung House in Betws-y-coed (01690 710202). B&B accommodation costs £20-£26 per person per night. The Ty Gwyn Hotel & Restaurant can be contacted on 01690 710383. For information, call the Wales Tourist Board on 01222 499909

Rhythms of the steel city

Sheffield, site of the new National Centre for Popular Music, has a rich rock'n'roll

heritage. David Sandhu takes a tour of some of the city's musical landmarks

"Oh we don't look the same as you, we don't do the things you do, but we live round here too." ("Mis-

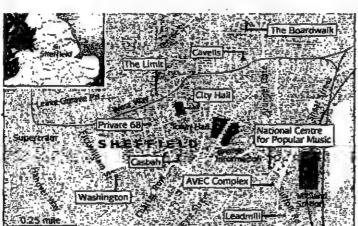
I SPOTTED it - couldn't miss it, really - immediately after exiting Sheffield station: a metallic mothership docked in the city centre. The National Centre for Popular Music, which opens on Monday, consists of four stainless steel "drums", each containing an interactive pop "experience". There was nothing like this when I was a student at Sheffield Poly (1987-90). In my day, we had to invent our own interactive pop experiences.

The National Centre should certainly be top of the pops for school trips, but I was more interested in reacquainting myself with the rich vein of musical talent mined in Sheffield over the years. They built this city not just on steel and coal, but also on rock n'roli.

O Land

Opposite the National Centre is AVEC complex which houses Red Tape Studios, financed by Sheffield City Council as a kind of Open University for local music wannabes (it gave BabyBird their first start); Steelworks recording studio, used by luminaries such as The Spice Girls, Bryan Adams and Robbie Williams; and the HL (Human League) studios.

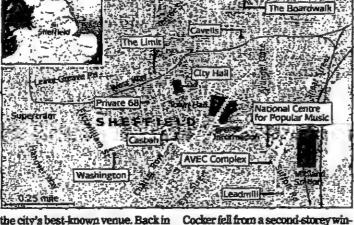
Just around the corner, The Leadmill's eau de stale ale recalled memories of undergraduate excess. This converted flourmill ta waterwheel remains beneath the club) is



the city's best-known venue. Back in the early Sixties, The Esquire Club hosted the likes of Clapton, Hendrix and Jagger upstairs in what are now the Leadmill offices. It was the first venture by a Mr Peter Stringfellow and you can almost still smell lingering traces of the Sheffield impresario's aftershave.

Shaun Ryder of Happy Mondays cited The Leadmill as the venue of one of the best gigs he ever played. However I remember it as home of one of the best gigs he never played. The Mondays' hedonistic nature got the better of them backstage one night and they forgot to play, somehow carousing their way home be-fore anybody noticed. More drunken foolishness oc-

curred above the Sven sex shop (now Private 68) on frendy Division Street in 1985. It was at this ironically hardcore location that Pulp's Jarvis



dow while attempting to impress a girl at a party. He fractured his pelvis, broke his wrist and ankle and spent six weeks recuperating in hospital, perhaps figuring that becoming famous might be a less painful seduction tactic. But that would take a further eight years to achieve. A hundred yards away, on West Street. The Hallamshire Hotel, once

a lively drinking den that hosted many of Pulp's early gigs, remains in name, if not in spirit. The Beehive, the bunker from where ABC, Heaven 17, Thompson Twins, Caharet Voltaire and Human League would plot world dominance, is now a Firkin pub. And The Limit, a tiny subterranean club that was pivotal to Sheffield's golden epoch of electronica (1979-1984), is no more, demolished and replaced by a Joh Centre. Throughout the Eighties,

The Limit hosted embryonic line-ups of local heroes as well as guests such as U2. Simple Minds and Orange played while still in his wheelchair.

A Limit tribute night takes place every Thursday at the Casbah (formerly The Wapentake), itself a rock pilgrimage site for long-haired lovers of the city's biggest music exports. Def Leppard, and run by an ex-roadie of the heavy metal gods

Passing the pleasantly dull Cavells pub on High Street (where at the then Crazy Daisy disco in 1980, Phil Oakey recruited two under-age girls, Susan and Joanne, to the Human Leaguel, you reach the Goth-black Boardwalk on Snig Hill. The Boardwalk (then known as The Black Swan and nicknamed "The Murky Duck") saw The Clash's début gig in 1976. Judging by its forthcoming attractions (Spear of Desting The Meteors), old punks never die on Snig Hill. And to include the Boardwalk's owner Herbie Armstrong among these rock relics may be a bit harsh - but then he is the ex-guitarist of Van Morrison's band.

The career of Joe Cocker one of the city's veteran rockers, took off after supporting the Rolling Stones (as Vance Arnold & The Avengers) in 1963 at Sheffield City Hall on Barker's Pool, a taupe-coloured Art Deco colossus. The austerity of the building has always been tempered by the reams of fan graffiti adorning its exterior I recall that Bros played their first major gig here in 1988, turning Sheffield into a pre-pubescent



Nuremberg rally, and covering the City Hall in marker pen and lipstick. A mile or so east, the undulating landscape of Weston Park is familiar to both myself and Jarvis Cocker: he famously lost his virginity among the daisies and I, anonymously,

used to revise on the benches. Old boys from nearby Sheffield University include Martin Fry of ABC and the comedian Eddie Izzard. And so to the Washington. A decade ago this back-street boozer

was home to a crowd of NME-reading students like myself, and amiable old men drinking mild. Now the venue, part-owned by the Pulp drummer Nick Banks, has become what the Beehive was back in the early Eighties - both nerve-centre





for networking muso types, and a relaxed place to enjoy a pint of Tetleys. Robbie Williams has been known to throw an occasional dart here and pop memorabilia, mostly local, cheers its walls - but Hard Rock Café this isn't.

After six hours of vicarious pop thrills. I mused that Sheffield's village-like atmosphere, its friendliness, informality and overall tolerance, must have helped fuel the city's musical success. The lineage continues with Gomez, former Hallam University students who, after taking a demo tape into the Record Collector shop on Fulwood Road, Broomhill, were rewarded last year with the Mercury Music Prize. Where else in the country would

a student (me, 1989) regularly bump into a pop star (Phil Oakey of Human League) in the local chip shop (off Eccleshall Road)? The National Centre for Popular Music may have found the perfect locale.

The National Centre for Popular Music opens on 1 March, Call 0114-296 6060 for information, 0114-296 2626 for bookings. There is a two-tier system for admission prices: the standard rate is for weekends. bank holidays and July and August: the off-peak rate (in brackets) applies at all other times. Adults £7.25 (£5.95); under 16s £4.50 (£4); students E5.50 (£4.75); families (two adults. two children) £21 (£18). Open 10am-6pm daily, last admission 3.30pm

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Most of Britain's worst pet owners have dogs. One had fed her Pomeranian to four times its natural body weight. The only thing it will now cross the room for is food. It is taken for walks in a push chair

IN THE WEEKEND REVIEW. PAGE 32

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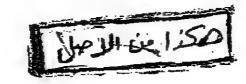
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Take a ride on a magic carpet

You can follow an instructor down the slopes of Vail, Colorado,

without ever leaving London. By Stephen Wood

caught the early where Arnold Schwarzenegger escapes through a forest from gunslinging snow-mobilers and skiers. During the sequence, the camera seems to run alongside Schwarzenegger; in fact it ran along a suspended line of cable, a piece of cinematic with a video system which

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he film True Lies devised by an American cam-structor". Rodnunsky erected eraman, Jim Rodminsky.

ambitious ski- and snowboardrecently arrived in the United Kingdom.

Rodnunsky's Metroski simulator combines a skiing surface, on a platform whose pitch is controlled by hydraulic rams, shows footage of a "ski-in-

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cable runs at the resort of Vail What does this have to do in Colorado, and a camera with skiing? The answer is that attached to them was used to Rodnunsky adapted his film skiers - from behind - as Cablecam technique for an they went down the piste. These sequences, shown on a tuition machine, which has screen in front of the platform. allow pupils to follow the skier and imitate his technique just as they would a ski-instructor

on the slopes.

The simulator will be formally launched in the UK at next week's European Fitness Convention at Earls Court, But

during the first two months of this year it was installed at the Chiswick Riverside health and sports club; while it was there I took the opportunity to ski down the slopes of Vail.

Beginners start on the

smaller of two platforms, a sort of nursery slope which pitches forward to create the angle of "descent"; having mastered the skills involved pupils move on to the red run, a bigger platform which can also pitch laterally. Before climbing up on to the beginners' platform I put on boots and skis and was strapped into a harness: this attaches to a cable hung above the Metroski and, in the event of a fail, the tug on the cable automatically stops the machine and returns the platform to a

level position. The platforms are covered with carpet it is fine, silky stuff but since it has far more grip than snow, the skis have a special coating to belp them glide over it. At the centre the carpet is a continuous roll; and when my instructor - Peter Walker, marketing director of Metroski UK and a former member of the British ski-racing team switched on the machine, the platform slowly pitched forward and the carpet began to roll up the slope.

Skiing in the same spot while the earth moves for you is not a natural sensation. But cajoled by Mr Walker, I began to experiment with a snowplough position, until I found one which kept me sliding downwards at the same speed as that of the carpet coming up. By the time Mr Walker had switched on the videc, I was doing "turns" from side to side of the carpet roll, beginning to appreciate the virtues of the Metroski.

Like other artificial surfaces. the carpet is less forgiving than when Mr Walker selected a

The Metroski simulator's carpet grips harder than snow and responds well to good technique

snow but responds well to good · dramatic downhill sequence, technique. Mr Walker set about and set the carpet roll to "fast". perfecting mine: to stress the I couldn't keep up with the onneed to keep my upper body facing down the slope while my with the big platform, since its skis moved diagonally in front lateral pitching is co-ordinated of me, he advised that in the with the instructor's turns. correct position "you don't crap on your skis". Perhaps it was a metaphor, or perhaps I just looked more alarmed than I was. The big platform increased my anxiety, particularly

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grander and the state of the supplied of the supplied of the state of

screen instructor - a problem with the big platform, since its

At the time, the lateral pitching seemed quite natural; later it occurred to me that while the forward pitch did simulate a ski slope, there were no real-resort pitch replicated. Mr Walker ex-

plained that "the skis don't bite into this surface as sharp edges will in snow, so the surface has to be tipped from side to side".

The technology to do that -and the Metroski's other tricks costs a lot of money: Metroski UK is selling the simulators in Europe for £75,000. A lesson on the Metroski doesn't come cheap either, at £34.99 for an hour. Is it worth it? If the alconditions which the lateral ternative is a dry ski slope, the (0171-323 0240) answer is yes.

If you want to try it, there w. be a Metroski at the Riversid Club in Northwood, Middleses from 6 March, And I can at leas guarantee that you will find ! more fun than sitting throug

The Riverside Club, North wood (01923 848000): the Me roski is available for use t non-members, Metroski U Ski boliday advice, page

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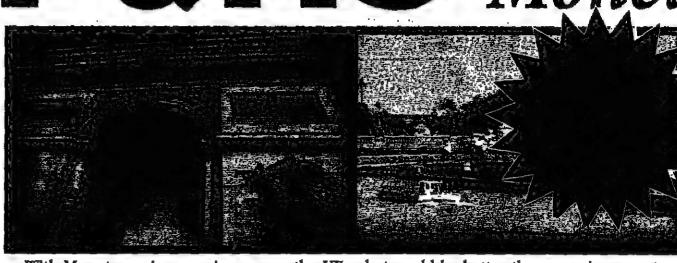
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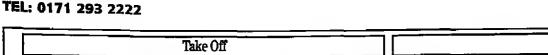
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Following in Sartre's footsteps

A black polo neck and a map is all you need to make this philosophy pilgrimage around Paris's Left Bank. By Julian Baggini

long with the artists of Montmartre, the Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame, one of the most enduring images of Paris is the café-dwelling, black-clad existentialist, smoking Gauloises and offering up the occasional bon mot. But there's more to Paris and philosophy than existentialism and some overpriced cafés. If you're planning a trip to Paris and want to find out more, set aside a few hours for a walk along the philosophers' Rive Gauche.

Begin at place Saint Germaindes-Prés, easily reached by the Métro station of the same name. This square lies on boulevard Saint-Germain, whose cafes were once the prime meeting-places of philosophers and intellectuals, but which now, sadly, is more renowned for its traffic and tourists. On the north-east aide of the square lies Les Deux Magots, possibly the most famous café in Paris, and one-time favourite haunt of the French intelligentsia. The café's reputation is a little misleading, however, for existentialists such as Jean-Paul Sartre (1905-1980) and Simone de Beauvoir (1908-1986) in fact preferred to take their caffeine next door, at the Café de Flore. And far from being idle chatterers, philosophy's glamour couple sat at separate tables, diligently writing their influential works. Philosophy of sorts still happens here during the monthly Englishlanguage cofé philosophique, where anyone can walk in and take part in a philosophical discussion.

Given the prices, this is perhaps not the best place for a rest, so cross over the square to Paris's oldest church, Saint Germain-des-Prés, which dates back to 542, though most of its features, including the tower, were added in the 12th century. It contains the tomb of René Descartes (1596-1650), arguably the most important figure in modern western philosophy. The interior of the church is relentlessly gloomy, and the monument to Descartes surprisingly modest.

Opposite the church, walk along rue Bonaparte for a few minutes until you get to place Saint-Sulpice. Here you will find Visconti's fountain and, more pertinently, the Café de la Mairie, Sartre and Albert Camus (1913-60) met here for the last time in 1951. Having worked together on the radical left-wing newspaper Combat, the two fell out, never to meet again. The cafe was also a favourite meeting-place for Paris's many literary émigrés, such as Hemingway, Fitzgerald and Beckett.

Walk around to the back of the square and then turn left down rue de Seine, crossing boulevard Saint-Germain, until you come to another café, La Palette. A haunt of students from the Beaux Arts school since the beginning of the century, this was another favourite of Sartre and de Beauvoir. Set on a reasonably quiet cross-roads, this is one of the better



If all this talk of philosophy leaves you reaching for a coffee and a packet of Gauloises, head to Cafe de Flore to join in the monthly discussions

of the historical cafés to stop off at, especially if you get one of the outside tables. Any café you stop at is going to be pricey, and this is about as aimospheric as you're going to get on the modern-day Left Bank. Continue along rue Callot and

then turn back towards boulevard Saint-Germain along rue de l'Ancienne-Comédie. Here you'll find Paris' oldest café, La Procope, which first opened in 1686. This became a enlightenment, foremost among them Denis Diderot (1713-84). Influenced by the English empiricist John Locke, Diderot's radical ideas foreshadowed much later theories such as evolution and eliminative materialism, and it was here at La Procope that 'Diderot and D'Alembert first conceived the

Encyclopédie, a landmark in scholarship but also a challenge to the authority of the Catholic church.

Rejoining the boulevard Saint-Germain, continue along, before branching off to the right along the rue Ecole de Mède, turning into the rue des Ecoles. Apart from the gloriously tacky Boutique Descartes. you will come to the Sorbonne, one of Europe's oldest and most distinguished universities, where students.

Turn right on to the rue Saint-Jacques and continue up until you come to the rue Soufflot. At the end of this road stands the imposing sight of the Panthéon. Originally completion in 1790 it was turned into

good by the Revolutionary Assem- outside, as ignoble a site to

of the political philosopher, author of The Social Contract and guiding here include Voltaire and Zola. light of the French Revolution, Jeancommissioned as a church, on its Jacques Rousseau (1712-78). A statue of Rousseau also stands, a shrine for France's great and incongruously, in the car park left for a few minutes and you will ar-

bly. The crypt contains the remains remember him as the Panthéon itself is impressive. Others buried

Walk away from the Panthéon, to the right, until you get to rue de PEstrapada. Follow this along to the

look delicate and, as my daughter

says, "prettier". I also picked up

some tips on which wine to serve

with which foods and I have some

great new recipes that I am happy

try a recipe about three times before

weeks' time. I wouldn't have dreamt

would suggest I serve with her un-beatable boeuf bourguignon. She

suggested fennel with an orange

vinaigrette and then to finish the

meal off with a creme brûlée that has

Françoise maintains you need to

This delightful square, with a calming central fountain, is quieter than a lot of the more central locations and provides the ideal spot to sit around and soak up the atmosphere.

You may wish to end your tour here, but one sight remains which the dedicated philosophy pilgrim would not want to leave out: the joint grave of Sartre and de Beauvoir. Hop find Sartre and de Beauvoir's on the Métro and make your way to modest gravestone, just turn right the green and pleasant Jardin du barely half-a-dozen graves along. Laxembourg. Tracing your steps back to the Panthéon, follow the rue The walk starts at Métro St-Soufflot to the boulevard Saint-Michel. Turn left along this road for should take between two hours and about 500 yards until you see the entrance to the Jardin on your right. you stop off along the way and When you leave the Jardin at the

rive at the place de la Contrescarpe. the narrow green stretch of avenue de l'Observatoire. When it turns to road, carry along and then turn right along the impressive boulevard du

Montparnasse. A left turn along rue Huygens at the junction with boulevard Raspail will take you to the entrance of the cemetery, where a free map is available at the warden's lodge. To he gates, and you will find it

Germain-des-Prés (line 13) and a whole day depending on how long whether you decide to walk to the

So, what's on the menu in Paris?

One of the best reasons for a trip to the French capital is that it's usually punctuated by unforgettably delicious meals. But just think if you could reproduce them on your return... By Margaret St John

IN THE middle of my first cookery lesson with Françoise Meunier in Paris, Miko, a Japanese "office girl" escaping the drudgery of her job in Tokyo, clasped her hands across her chest and squealed in halting French: "I am so happy!" Her friend giggled in a shy, embarrassed way and then quickly took her camera out of her bag to capture a picture of the pot-ou-feu (stew) on the table. Picture taken, we all sat down to eat the three-course lunch that we had prepared, each armed, of course, with a glass of wine.

Having lived in Paris for two years, I was bored with cooking the same old staples but, not a naturally gifted cook, I was looking for inspiration. The whole concept of Françoise's courses really appealed. A bit like going into someone else's kitchen and learning from the cook, it is relaxed and informal. Although the lessons were conducted in French, Françoise speaks good English and happily translated for

us as we went along. The other advantage is that there are never more than six to a class (and more often just three or four). Françoise is popular among groups of friends who want to organise a lunch or an evening in advance. The Saturday lunch course, for example, is ideal for a group of friends visiting Paris for the weekend. The lunch will be delicious and the premises are conveniently located near the Bourse, within walking distance of many of the sights.

The menus are flexible and you can suggest particular dishes. On one occasion, Françoise received a fex from a group of friends wanting to do all the Indian cuisine reviews that had been printed in a newspaper's colour supplement, and she happily obliged. Another group, of Americans, booked an evening

devoted to the scary topic of souffles. The mission is to plan a balanced meal with simple dishes, made with quality ingredients, served hot, on time and presented in an appetising way. To achieve this, though, a few basics must first be tackled. A generation ago, in France as in Britain, families passed on basic kitchen skills but sadly, modern life means that there is a substantial number of men and women who have had no such opportunities.

ITALIAN COOKERY Weeks run

between May and October at

three locations in Italy. How

much cooking you do is your

insurance, flights, transfers, seven nights' full-board

accommodation and tuition.

There are also one-day courses

at the Cirio Italian Kitchen in

London, for £55. Call 0181-208

COFFEE ADDICTS will love the

Coffee College in London. For

£50 you learn about the origins

tastings) before moving on to making up your own blends and learning how to make the

and production of coffee (with

half-day course at the Costa Real

0112, or visit www.italian-

cookery-weeks.co.uk.

choice, and outings are included.

The cost of £1,190 also includes

In this era of the supermarket, we have forgotten to ask for advice from the butcher or fishmonger down the street and Françoise stressed how important it is to have "a good relationship with the butcher". Unsurprisingly, she organises trips to the local markets and has

lists of favourite specialist shops. A typical lesson lasts three hours and all students are introduced to each other. Your apron and dishcloth are waiting for you, along with a printed menu of recipes. Each dish and its ingredients are discussed in detail and then the three-course meal is prepared. Students weigh potatoes, turnips and carrots in a

SIX OF THE BEST CULINARY COURSES

perfect cappuccino. Then there's

a tour of the roastery and lunch,

and you get a goody bag to take home. Call 0171-840 2085.

Thailand to its range of cookery

September at the Laem Set Inn.

Koh Samui. Prices start at £1,200

TASTING PLACES has added

courses and now offers week-

including tuition, full-board

accommodation and airport

transfers but not flights. Call

COOKING WITH Class Ltd is run

0171-460 0077 or visit

www.tastingplaces.com

by Victoria O'Neill at Pyon

day-long courses include

House in Herefordshire. Her

Australian cuisine, cookery for

kids (or for men) and Classic

long courses in May and

for cutting and peeling, whisk the egg white and cook the entire meal. While students are expected to do their share of tidying up and clearing away, there is no heavy-duty cleaning or washing-up. Françoise moved the business out of her home as it grew, so the new, purpose-built kitchen is bright and airy and she has an enviable set of pots, pans and utensils, and a larder of herbs and

better - to top-and-tail and peel

April. Call 01432 830122.

OWNED AND run by chefs, the

Drambuie Scottish Chefs centre

opened in March last year in a

hotel in Glasgow. Courses run

between March and November

from two-hour demonstrations

booked until summer but, to

to week-long residential courses

book for later, call 0141-427 1106.

CLARIDGE'S BAR offers three-

and there are still places in May,

June, July and September. The

price of £50 includes a cocktail

certificate. Call 0171-409 6307.

shaker, recipe booklet and

hour cocktail master-classes,

Weekend courses cost £199. Fully

you are familiar enough with it to be happy. Although nervous, I have invited knor Parislana for dinner in two spices to die for. Although I knew how to chop an of entertaining them before doing onion, I learnt how to present things this course. I phoned Françoise this morning to ask her what she

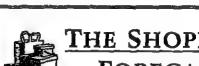
a hint of pistachio - all of which can French cooking. Prices start at £25 for a kids' class, and there be prepared the day before. Perfect. The courses take place at 7, rue Paul Lelong, 75002 Paris (00 33 140 26 14 will be b&b accommodation from

to try at home.

and measure, use the correct knife more uniform way so that they do

00) and cost Fr450 (about £45) per person, but Françoise is offering Independent readers a special reduced price until mid-July of Fr400 (£40), including lunch or dinner with wine. Other suitable courses include

La Toque d'Or, which is run by an Englishwoman, Sue Young, at 55 rue du Varennes, 75007 Paris (00 33 145 44 86 51) where prices are similar to those of Françoise Meunier and the classes are in English. Marie Blanche de Broglie runs a pricier version from her home at 18 avenue de la Motte Picquet, 75007 Paris (00 33 145 51 36 34). Each course costs F7700 (£70), but this does include a lesson on how to set the table





the Gorges du Verdou. Supposedly the centre of the world's perfume industry since the 16th century, Grasse was also once a centre for leather tanning; history has it that the connections with perfume began when Catherine de Medici set a trend for scented

leather gloves. Today, the tanneries have gone but the perfume houses of Fragonard and Molinard remain, even if much of what they produce is made from imported flowers or chemical essences and the surrounding fields of lavender, mimosa, jasmine and roses have been

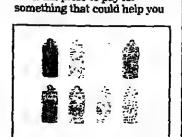
sold to property developers. Perfume-lovers should start their visit at the Musée Internationale de la Parfumerie (00 33 493 368020) and its garden of fragrant plants, but the public can also visit the Fragonard and Molinard factories to learn all about the perfume process and, of course, pick up some bargain essences if you can brave the coach parties, that is.

Fragonard is open gam-12.45pm and 2pm-6pm daily and has free factory tours in all European languages (call 00 33 493 364465 for details) as well as

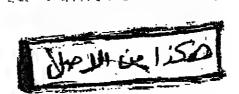
a shop. When I visited a few years ago, the best reason for being there was that many of the scents smelt very like popular commercial brands, but this is not an official strategy. If you want to buy perfume, Soleil is the latest Fragonard blend to choose. In France, it costs from FF250 (about £26) for 100ml of eau de toilette, but you can also buy it via mail order in the UK (00 33 492 423434) for about £36, including packing. Buy 10 bottles in France, and you'll be able to use the £100 you save to treat yourself to a weekend away later on in the year, thanks to easyJet's (0870 6000

Gadget of the week Advertised as the world's most advanced whistle, it costs \$2.99 - a small price to pay for

000) return fares of £90.20 to



out of many a dangerous situation. The ultrasonic Fox 40 whistles are pea-less - which means that there are no moving parts to freeze or jam - and let out a piercing noise. They are already used by coastguards, skiers and mountain rescue teams, and are available in various colours from Ski Essentials (0171-831 5131). RHIANNON BATTEN







One land, two cultures, three cuisines

The Alsace's troubled history of occupation by both France and Germany has produced a distinctive culture to match its mountain scenery. By Margaret Campbell

first arrived in Alsace on a cold January morning many years ago, en route from the winter sun of Nice to the joy of a friend's new baby in uttgart. Stumbling from the stuffiness of the night train into the frosty streets of Strasbourg, I headed for the cathedral and began to think I had missed the stop and was already in Germany. With the city's medieval, half-timbered buildlngs and bilingual street names, this was not the way France was meant to look.

Since then, I have got to know the area better and, as always, the reality is more complex. Geographical location and a troubled history combine to give Alsace and its people (some of whom have had to change nationality three times this century) a character all their own: France's third most important winegrowing region is where the "Marseillaise", that most Gallic of tunes, was composed in 1792, but it is also where the French government has transferred part of the prestigious ENA, Alma Mater of many a senior politician, from Paris. It has the highest number of gourmet restaurants of any French region but a Germanic reputation for hard work; most confusing of all, you regularly hear people start a sentence in Alsatian (the local Germanic dialect) then finish the thought in French.

Stretching south in a narrow strip from Germany to Switzerland, Alsace's natural borders are formed by the Vosges mountains and the Rhine. If you're travelling without a car, seeing the sights will take a little planning but there are regular rail services to many of the small villages. Bikes can be rented in Strasbourg, and Alsace has more than 750

miles of cycle tracks. A good place to start is Saverne, a small town just south of the Hagenau Forest and the North Vosges natural park. The centre boasts one of Alsace's prettiest houses, the restaurant Katz on Grande Rue. From there, you can cycle along a canal to Strasbourg.



Some people have changed nationality three times this century; sentences often start in the local German dialect and end in French

The city is home to a Gothic cathedral dating back to the 13th century, a host of museums (including a major new Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art), and a picturesque district known as "La Petite France". Take a boat along the canals, try rowing or stork-watching in the Park de l'Orangerie, or stand on the Barage Vauban for a superb and head for the countryside again.

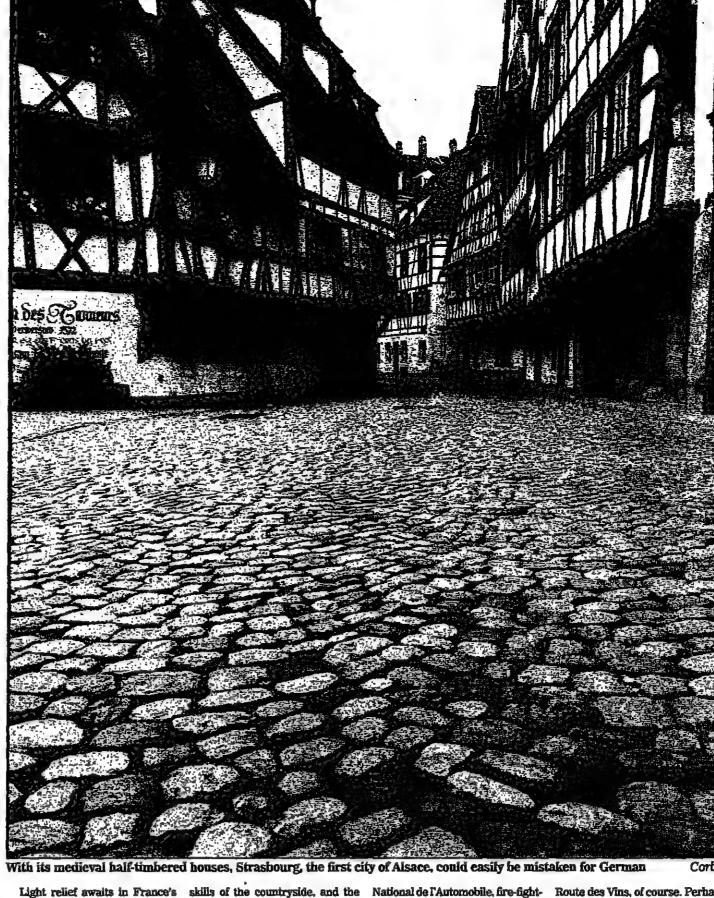
The village of Obernal serves as a gateway to the Vosges mountains. Once the home of the dukes of Alsace, it has preserved a large part of its ancient ramparts with their semicircular tours, and the distinctive Corn Market. The tourist office provides details of well-signposted mountain walks nearby, graded for length and difficulty. One of the most popular leads to Mont St Odile. named after the daughter of a ninth-

century duke of Alsace who built a convent for her here. It eventually became an abbey and place of pilgrimage. You'll find excellent views and a modestly priced hostellerie, run by a group of nuns.

Alsace has a strong ecology movement, and attempts are made to limit the effects of mass tourism on the mountains, particularly through its two nature parks, the Regional Nature Park in the north trecognised as a World Biosphere Reserve by Unesco) and the Ballons des Vosges Nature Park. However, both downhill and cross-country skiing are possible, particularly around Champ du Feu. If the snow has melted by the time you get here, there are ample opportunities for riding, rambling and other outof-doors activities.

Back on the plain, the Route des Vins runs from Marienheim, just west of Strasbourg, to Thann in the south - miles of fortified towns, beautifully kept villages, wine-tasting in small caves, and row upon row of vines. Seven types of wine are produced in Alsace's vineyards, including riesling, gewürzraminer and Tokay pinot gris, as well as sparkling crémant, and highlights of the route include Molsheim (where Bugatti cars were once crafted), the brightly coloured villages of Ribeanvillé and Riquewihr (to be avoided at weekends, but too beau-tiful to miss), and the Château of Haut Koenigsbourg, which sits perched almost 750 metres above

Alsace's second city is Colmar, view of the city, then turn your back less imposing than Strasbourg but perhaps more accessible. Some of the cobbled medieval streets are divided up into neighbourhoods named after the professional guilds that once ran them. Birthplace of Frédéric Bartholdi, who designed the Statue of Liberty, Colmar's "must see" is in the Unterlinden Museum, housed in a 13th-century Dominican monastery. I had seen pictures of the Issenheim Altarpiece, but its violent details are even more striking at close range.



largest open-air museum, the Ecomusée d'Alsace (Ungersheim). More than 50 structures from all over Alsace, including a fairground mantled piece by piece, moved from them were threatened with destruction) and carefully reconstructed here, Regular workshops demonstrate traditional crafts and

museum has proved to be especially

popular with children. Further south, Mulhouse is a more industrial town than Colmar. merry-go-round, have been dis- and is dubbed the French Manchester owing to its textile factories. their original sites (where many of The model housing and pioneering welfare system are more reminiscent of New Lanark. Nowadays the town is worth visiting for its museums (printed textiles, the Musée

ing, railways, walipaper...).

No description of France would be complete without mentioning the local cuisine. Here traditional fare tends to be hearty and filling: baeckeoffe is a marinated stew with vegetables and three kinds of meat, or choucroute. Tarte flambée is a lighter snack, and kougloff a sweet cake. All best washed down with a chill glass of Riesling from the

Route des Vins, of course. Perhaps Alsace isn't so different after all...

Spring is celebrated in Strasbourg on 14 March, with floats, music and merry-making. Many other towns have carnivals too. For information on Alsace contact the Comité Régionale du Tourisme at 6 avenue de la Marseillaise, BP 219, 67005 Strasbourg (00 33 3 88 25 01 66)" or www.tourismealsace.com

The lake in the Landes with the unlikely name

The Lake of Biscarrosse-Parentis is dotted with oil platforms and seaplanes buzz overhead, but it's also a kind of paradise. By John Watkins

A BACK-TO-NATURE holiday on a lake dotted with 28 oil platforms might seem like rather a perverse idea, but the Lake of Biscarrosse-Parentis in south-west France has never been shy of mixing its business with its pleasure.

Biscarrosse and Parentis-en-Born, the two Gascon towns that give the lake its cumbersome name, are pretty places; both have pedestrianised centres, and are well-stocked with shops, cafes and bars. Both also have significant industrial

In the Thirties, seaplanes operated by Air France Transatlantique took off from Biscarrosse for the 60-hour flight to New York, and the town remains an important centre for what the French call hydraviation. When oil came in the Fifties, Parentis-en-Born, on the eastern shore, became an oil town. Add to that a western coastline reserved for the army, and you have a strange mix of industry, the military, and tourism all centred on the one lake.

In fact, these un-touristy add-ons give the lake a welcome frisson and stop it from being too bland. If you lie on a quiet, sandy beach, you may hear the buzz of a seaplane; if you're out on the water on a wind-surfer or dinghy, there's nothing to stop you setting a course for one of the oil platforms. If the weather should turn misty, as it does from time to time, you can take shelter in the Museum of Petrol at Parentis-en-Born or the Hydroplane Museum at Biscarrosse. Both are worth a visit.

Surrounded on all sides by pine forests. the hinterland is as flat as a crepe - the road from Parentis to Biscarrosse might as well have been drawn on the map with a ruler. Some people find the two-dimensional landscape off-putting but, personally. I rather like the unsettling uniformity. Although the forests are now criss-crossed with footpaths and cycle tracks, they too have their roots in commerce.

Until the middle of the last century, the Landes was a neglected, unvisited corner of France. Swampy, sandy and swept by gales, the land was so wet that the Landais



The Lake of Biscarrosse-Parentis in the Landes is surrounded on all sides by pine forests and a hinterland that is as flat as a crèpe

shepherds used to go around on stilts. But, new world of leisure. The Landes now as a result of compulsory drainage and forestation, the Landes grew to become the largest pine forest in Europe, and resin from the trees, an ingredient in glue,

made the area wealthy. As demand for the commodity has

promotes itself as the ultimate outdoor playground, and its forests and lakes are ideal for hunting, fishing, cycling, swimming, walking, sailing and ponytrekking. In turn, the Lake of Biscarrosse-Parentis has dozens of campsites faltered, the forest has had to adapt to a clustered around its shore, ranging from

tiny aires naturelles to megasites with more than a thousand pitches.

If we parents had had our way, we might have chosen a smaller site, but with children of an age to be scandalised by the mere thought of sitting in a field contemplating nature, we settled for La Réserve at Gastes. Its 628 emplacements make it

one of the largest campsites in Gascony and it functions like a village. Suburbs are made up of different companies' tents and static caravans, and La Réserve even has its own beach and marina.

Those who turn up with their own tents and camper-vans get pitches close to the lake. At night, Sunsites' red tents glow like you can have your duck and eat it.

brothels, but only Haven Europe has the nerve to give its tents names: Marge, Monica, Millie, in M-Section; Louisa, Larry and Lippy, in L. You can imagine the conversation back home: "Yes, we stayed with Marge this year, much more comfortable than Millie. We might try Monica next year - you know what they say, a change is as good as a rest."

On the plus side, hard-to-please children will approve of La Réserve's swimmingpools, crazy golf and the wide range of supervised sports on offer - be prepared to queue for the more popular ones. But it's at night when La Réserve really comes into its own. After the arguments over whose turn it is to wash up have subsided, the camp's large teenage population put on their glad rags and mingle outside the Salle des Jeux, At 9.30pm, there's a general rush for seats for the evening show.

But that's the great thing about the lake. You can have it both ways. If you crave company you can hang around the pool or book yourself on one of the organised activities. When you've had enough of human beings. you can disappear into the forest.

One Sunday morning, we drove up to Biscarrosse to gawp at Europe's jet set, burning across the lake as they competed in the European Speed Skiing Championship. Then back to Parentis, just in time for a more traditional (and sedate) celebration of French culture - the Sunday market offers everything from local wine and cheese to north African drums and lethal Chinese bangers. Try the potatoes cooked in chicken fat for a delicious snack.

Later, we got on our bikes and cycled to Ste Eulalie-en-Born, a tiny village at the southern end of the lake. Here we ate icecreams on a deserted beach, while ducks paddled serenely in the reedy shallows. Then back to Gastes for supper at l'Estanquet (a reservation is essential during the summer) where we were served magrets de canard, a delicious Gascon speciality, duck cutlet in cream sauce. Which just goes to show that in the Landes.



48 hours ... in Singapore

You need a break - and a shortcut to the soul of a great city. Culturally straddling the East and the West, Singapore, suggests Rick Bouwman, is the perfect stopover if you want to eat, drink and sleep well

Why go now? Modern Singapore is a rich and fascinating mix of Chinese, Malay, Indian and Western Culture, While it has more than its fair share of sterile shopping mails, it is also a place where you can travel easily. eat and drink fantastically well and sleep with fewer worries than in many large European or North American cities, let alone Asian ones, in other words, it's perfect for a stopover.

Get your bearings Changi airport is a model of organisation, Tourist nformation is widely available. You can book a hotel at the Singapore Hotels Association booking desks in Terminals one and two. And there are free elephones which you can use to call anywhere in Singapore from the arrivals hall, English is spoken irtually everywhere.

Take a tax from the airport – they're cheap (less

than 5520, about £7), and the ride in will get you

equainted with the Singapore skyline. The city also has a good bus system; many of the vehicles are air conditioned and the lares are cheap (one trip 70 cents, but make sure you have the correct change). The underground rallway (MRT) 🔾 is fast. frequent, clean and air conditioned, and covers most of the city. At any station after 10am you can buy a Tourist Souvenir Ticket for SS7 (£2.50) which will take you everywhere on the system.

Window Shopping Singapore is a paradise for shoppers: the range is enormous, the prices are good, the shopping centres and mails can be jaw-droppingly mpressive. The main areas are Orchard Road, the Marina (where the Sun Tek Centre boasts the world's largest fountain, the Fountain of Wealth what else?), the Chinatown Centre, and Raffles Plaza. 7 One highlight is the Lucky Plaza, 🔞 a huge collection of small shops right in the midst of the International-brand giltz of Orchard Road.

Beam down Between them, British Airways (0345-222111), Cantas (0345-747767) and Singapore Airlines (0181-747 0007) offer slx nontop 747s a day between leathrow and Singapore, making t possible to fit a weekend in ingapore between finishing work on Friday and starting again on Aonday. You should not need to pay more than £400 through count agents; for better value still, get to Singapore en route to Australasia for no more than £600 return. The cheapest deals are ikely to be on Royal Brunel (0171-584 6660), which has a veckly one-stop fiight.

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ing Mark, Nestrations $\overline{\mathbf{g}}_{i,j} = \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{n} \left(\sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}_{i}} \frac{$

A. STANDERS ...

Take a bike to India Along Rochor Road, you will come across the ultra-colourful entrance gaze to Serangoon Road, (1) the centre of Little India. This is the most chaotic and colourful precinct of Singapore: a wander down Serangoon will give an idea of the atmosphere of the subcontinent for those who have never been there, and a less stressful reminder of it for those who have.

Bracing brunch If you have been to St Andrew's Cathedral, it's just a short stroll to Raffles Hotel arcade where Ah Teng Bakery offers an excellent hasi lemak, the classic Malay breakfast. consisting of rice, preserved fish, nuts and vegetables. They also have wide range of western cakes and pastries as well as good coffee and tea. Also nearby is the CHIJMES centre. (B) where restaurants and shops abound in a artfully restored

Sunday morning: go to church it is possible to visit Hindu, Buddhist and Taoist temples as well as Christian churches. Unusually, visitors are also welcome at mosques (though not at prayer times) and most mosques will. almost uniquely in the Muslim world, admit women, in all religious buildings dress modestly, and in mosques remove shoes before entering. Try Sc Andrew's Cathedral (2) in the Colonial district for colonial ambience or visit The Temple of a Thousand Lights (B (Buddhist), Singapore's largest temple, featuring an eight-metre high Buddha (easily accessible by bus along Orchard Road) and the Sri Mariamman Temple (2)

While in Little India, visit the "Banada Leaf" restaurants 3 of Racecourse Road. Here you will find fish-head curry: a mountain of rice and pickles on a banana leaf, accompanied by a giant bowl of delectable curry sauce/ soup, in which sits the succulent head of sea bream, Not cheap (\$\$20, or about £7), but you'll never deprecate a fish head again. Elsewhere (or rather, everywhere) in the city, regional Chinese cuisines (Hokkien, Teochew, Cantonese, Beijing, Szechuan), Malay and Indian food, as well as the local Peranakan or Nonya, are available. In Chinatown, the charming, open-air Maxwell Road Food Centre () Jone of the few oldfashioned "hawker centres" still in existence) offers a mind-boggling range of snacks, meals, juices and m breakfast to late night. A true treasu trove for fans of Asian food, Relax, experiment and enjoy.

SINGAPORE

Take a hike to Arabia Singapore is not Paris. The climate and traffic make it unsuitable for strolling between neighbourhoods. But there are two historic, and mewhat atypical, precincts where you can spend a fascinating hour or two soaking up the atmosphere on foot, From Bugis Junction MRT, 2 pass along Rochor Road and head towards the striking twin towers of IM Pei's remarkable Gateway skyscraper: 3 tum left along Johor Road, and you will come to Arab Street. It's a remarkably well-preserved, oldfashioned shopping street and the centre of the Arab Quarter, Beautifully fitted old shops hold a rich array of silks and cottons from all SE Asia bargain buys include excellent quality "sarungs

East Coast Park

An aperitif The one and only place for an aperith is the bar of Raffles Hotel ((MRT Raffles Place). at 1. Beach Road (00 65 337 1886). The famous Singapore Sling (invented in 1915 by a Hainanese barman at the hotel) will set you back S\$15 (about £5,50), but is worth it for the drink itself and the atmosphere of the venerable, but luxuriously renovated hotel. Be arned though, sur! shorts and flip-flops

> A walk in the park it's worth the trip to Jurong Bird Park, 20 hectares of open space in the newly developed western area of ingapore, which houses the largest collection of birds (600 species) in South-east Asia, and one of the largest of the world. Take the MRT to the end of the line at Boon Lay, and then a short bus ride will get you there.

The king on the cake If you are in Chinatown, one of the most amusing things to do is to visit one of the small pubs or bars and engage in a bit of karaoke - or at least fisten. Don't visit the karaoke "lounges", where a beer can cost you \$20 (£7). The best places are the small bars in temple or pagoda streets, often run by Filipinos, which are friendly and informal, and serve



(Hindu) in Chinatov

Demure dinner The Blue Ginger (1) (97, Tanjong Pagar Road, 00 65 222 3928) is one of Singapore's best Peranakan restaurants. Peranakan or Nonya cuisine developed from the combination of food of the early Chinese settlers and that of the indigenous Malay people. Signature dishes at the Blue Ginger Include Ikan masak asam gulai (fish cooked in tamarind curry), ayam buah keluak (braised chicken with rumeric. galangal, lemon grass and Indonesian black nuts) and babi pontay (stewed shoulder of pork cooked in preserved soy beans and tamarind with cinnamon and bamboo shoots). A meal for two costs \$\$50-70 (about £18-25), plus drinks, Otherwise, the restaurants on the shoreline of the East Coast Park (1) provide superb seafood, with water views Try the pepper crab.

MARINA

Artistic treat Uthough celebrations for Chinese New Year (16-17 Feb) and Celebration Singapore (which runs until 27 Feb) will have passed. there is still a piethora of cultural events to look forward to in 1999 Millennium Mania runs from June until well into next year, entailing a daily menu of special events. from art exhibitions and street festivals to Chinese opera. Details are available on the Singapore Tourist Board's excellent website ww.กewasia-singapore.com).

excellent cold beer.

MARINA EAST

GLOBAL AGENDA

Gelsenkirchen

If you missed out on Mervyn Peake's counter-culture trilogy Gormenghast in the Sixties, you've another chance to catch it in musical form in Gelsenkirchen this spring: Irmin Schmidt, founder of the avantgarde rock group CAN, has written a fantasy opera based on the trilogy, with a libretto by the English novelist Duncan Fallowell. Commissioned by the Wuppertal Opera, who premiered it last November, the three act work is performed in English and tells of the rise and fall of Steerpike, a clever and charming kitchen boy who machinates his way to becoming the murderous tyrant of Gormenghast Castle. Schillertheater NRW, Musiktheater Gelsenkirchen, Kennedyplatz, Gelsenkirchen, Germany (00 49 209 409 7200) to end of June, DM12-DM48

Boston With a mission to "inspire, educate, entertain and empower" New England's Dance Umbrella company has brought some of the best contemporary dance from around the world to auditoriums in the region. Two highlights of the 1998-1999 season are Mark Morris's annual visit - with



famous cellist Yo-Yo Ma this year and Furioso, an evening-length work by Meryl Tankard, a former principal dancer with Pina Bausch's Tanztheater Wuppertal, who has been artistic director of the Australian Dance Theatre since 1993. Various venues, Boston, MA. USA (00 1 617 824 8000) Mark Morris and Yo-Yo Ma, today and tomorrow; Meryl Tankard Australian Dance Company, 11-14 March, \$23-\$45

accompaniment from the world-

To mark the centenary of the first exhibition by the Viennese Secessionists, the Fondazione Antonio Mazzotta has organised Gustav Klimt and the Origins of the Wiener Secession", a show that celebrates the work of those artists who revolted against what they saw as the conservative and constraining style of the time. As well as

some 80 works by Klimt himself. there are nearly 200 works by such artists as Kolo Moser and Ferdinand Andri - plus works by some of the guest artists the Secessionists invited to participate in their shows, such as Toulouse-Lautrec, Van Gogh and Gauguin. Fondazione Antonio Mazzotta,

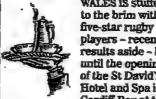
50 Foro Buonaparte, Milan. Italy (00 39 0287 8197) to 16 May.

The American video artist Bill Viola has consistently broken new ground with his tapes and installations, with many of his pieces being snapped up by museums around the world. Frankfurt has collated 25 of Viola's videotapes and 16 of his installations for this retrospective of 25 years' worth of his work, locating them at sites which have been selected because of their political, social or cultural significance. An added bonus is that all of the venues are within 10 minutes' walk of each other, giving a visitor to the city the perfect excuse for a foot-friendly

museum-sightseeing tour.

Various venues, Frankfurt, Germany (00 49 69 212 37953) to 25 April, DM8-DM12 SHARON CETHINGS

24 HOUR ROOM SERVICE ST DAVID'S HOTEL & SPA



players - recent results aside - but until the opening of the St David's Hotel and Spa in Cardiff Bay at the turn of the year, the principality was as bereft of top-rated hotels as the English are of Eisteddfod gold medals.

WALES IS stuffed

to the brim with

The first five-star-rated establishment in the country is also the first hotel run here by Sir Rocco Forte and his family. The glass-and-white-metal building is well-placed for the Weish Assembly that will swing into life in the middle of the year, and is already fully booked for the weekend of the Rugby World

Cup Final in November. Designed by Sir Rocco's sister Aga, the hotel's décor is minimalist white and, like the hotel, seems to be aimed at the business person. Documents to scan at 3am? No problem! Need a hotel with a Japanese cultural liaison officer? Dim problem, as they say locally. Children to entertain? Could be bothersome. And leave Rover chained to the railings outside.

ARE YOU LYING COMFORTABLY? Beds: 6ft long by 5ft 6in wide guests apparently remark on

how comfortable they are. The hotel has 118 rooms, plus 18 suites, the best being the master suites with separate work and relaxation areas.

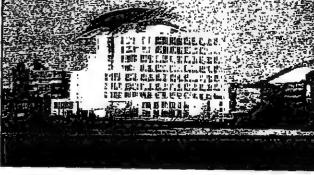
Freebles: Toiletries by Quercus, plus fruit and flowers, minimalist of course - currently three tulips per room, so no chance of catching hay fever here. If you fancy a robe, it will cost £45. Temperature: A thermostat in every room.

Bathroom: The usual range of essential porcelain products, and the bath took four minutes to fill. Greater attention has been paid to the bathrooms in bedrooms for the disabled: a sit-down, walk-in shower is complemented by a special sink, a railed toilet and wered light fittings.

KEEPING IN TOUCH Television: The five main channels plus one Sky Sports channel, BBC News 24 and a movie channel. "We will have 40 channels of television by November 1999", says the hotel. Radio: Radios 2, 3, 4 and the local commercial station. Fax and Internet: A separate ISDN socket is provided near the desk in each room. Phone: All local calls are free. but a three-minute national rate call will set you back £1.17. Switchboard: Three calls at

different times of day took 15

seconds or less to answer.



LOCATION, LOCATION. LOCATION The St David's Hotel & Spa,

Havannah Street, Cardiff Bay, Cardiff CF1 6SD (tel 01222 454045, fax 01222 487056, e-mail: reservations@fivestarhti.wales.com)

Transport: A frequent bus service into the city centre runs from two minutes' walk away, but there is also a limousine service. Time to international airport: Cardiff Airport is 25 minutes drive away, with direct flights to Amsterdam, Brussels, Dublin and Paris.

Trains: The London Paddington to Cardiff Central service takes about two hours. The hotel is 10 minutes by taxi from the station,

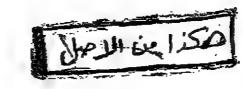
THE BOTTOM LINE A double room, including VAT and service, costs £124 per night.

with junior suites £250 and master suites £500. Breakfast costs from an extra £9.50 for Continental to £70 for a full champagne breakfast for two in your room. Dinner is taken in Tides Restaurant.

I'm not paying that: The special offer of £110 for single occupancy room with breakfast. and £120 for double occupancy with breakfast is available until the end of April. When the Spa opens on Monday (St David's Day), several other special packages will be introduced.

Still too much? The Cardiff Backpacker Centre on the other side of town (01222 345577) charges £12.50 per night for a space in the dormitory or £29 for two people in a private room.

LAWRENCE HOURAHANE



GERMAN FEMALS

hiendship and whetever.

15142
PETITE BRUNETTE
Good-looking Pussian lady, 34, seeks mature, reliable, sincere man, to start a long-term relaboration, possibly leading to more. 15134
PERMANENT BLISS?
Sim. soarde outbolen

Sim, sparky, outgoing, arrac-tive blonde, 43, likes good lood/wine. Hampsteed, kamily life, country walks, dislikes

life, country walks, dislifest leng stur, juzz, arrokers, seeks contident, armusing, intelligent chap, for permane bijss. London, 17:51 48. HI THERE Female, 37, 516°, darkfulus, slim build, enjoys sports, eat ing out, new places, seeks o going, successful, well-built, sensave man, with similar interests. London, 17:4970. VIVACIOUS VEGETARIAN Attractive, recipied, 36, preer

VIVACIOUS VESSE IARIAM Attractive, reclined, 36 green eyes, medium build, divorced, into animal ngrits, seeside, candies, joss-aticle, honest and lun, seeks attractive, happy, sensitive, animal-loving male, 35-45, Lincs, 10/4964
FESTIV

35-45, Lincs. 174964
FESTY
FIFTY BUCKS BELLE
Artstic, articulate abornative,
edector, energiete, implagent,
impulsive, outgoing, difficat,
ormitamous, undaunted, untypical, unhasable female, seeks
tall, N/S, sensitive man, with
ideas, Millon Keynes, 174959
BRIGHTON BELLE
Paradoxical, essentive, altrustic, oreative, carry, loo female,
seeks charismatic male, brave
enough to explore both the
Amezon and the child within.
175048

Mark ... I'Ca

*THE INDEPENDENT

089755455 to respond to any ad. Calls cost the normal BT premium rate of the normal BT premium r



RESPONSIBLY HEDOMISTIC 40 London, 1275149 ARE YOU. ...tell, craggy, 50sh, adjacent to north Bucks, fit but not

tenatic, sensitive and humor-ous? If you like to walk, talk, this artistic and eclectic
woman, needs some loving.
\$5371

LATIN IS EXCITING?
Box 4161? Take 100? I rang
you too late, so please call met
275381

LOOKING
FOR ENRICHINENT
Sociable, engaging, warmhearted male, 34-38, required
tor sociable evenings, qualify
conversation and meaningful
company. London area

company. London area, 125391 INVESTIGATE LONDON From smoky jazz bars to musty book shops. Female, 37, leading complicated life, seeks straightforward relation

seeks straightforward relation-ship, with chap. 40+. 275429 ARTISTIC ARTISTIC
Well-invoked, mature lemale
student, blonde hair, effervescert personality, seeks cultured male companion, 40-50,
with bablishord hair and
sparking eyes, who loves
life/bravel, Any nationality,
Surrey based, \$25416
HI THERE!

Iff THERE!
Abactive, dark, eritato, divorced lemale, young-looking 44, leaches, writes, shops, anjoys good conversabon, lood, travel, firms, theatre, music, vaned tastes, Reeking a warm, lun, intelligent man, smilar apelinterests. S Wales based 255304.
MAN FRIDAY
Attractive brunette, 27, enjoys. MAN FRIDAY
Attractive brunette, 27, enjoys
conversation, theatra, music,
cinema and good tood, is
seeking an honest, caring
male, aged 26-32, for new
adventures, London based.

HOLDING OUT Intelligent, stractive, slim, bubbly blonde, 30, 5'4", seeks skn., kandsome, intelligent, sincers, honest, successful, professional what geniterrain, 27:35, 6', sahleric build, for happiness and long-term relationship. Herss/Sucks area preferably. 93:511
SEEKING MILLENINIUM MAN Attractive Midlands-based lawyer. 38, into lamits, dancing, criema, theatre, seeks decent quy, while a miteresting, lively and masonesity carver-maded, to entry life and laugh with. \$25318
EMPTY HOOMS

mended, to enjoy life and laugh with, \$25318.

EMPTY FIGORIS Intelligent, blonds single mum, 5°5, graduate, slim build, snipys science fiction, rock music, offibeat humour, politics, snumels, home life, seeking a deep-thinking, metident male, 35-45, for a fusion of mircle. South Wales or anywhere. 10:5382

ATTRACTIVE
PROFESSIONAL
ProfessionAL
Fun. serous, considered, reliable lamale, 27, with GSOH, empty during in or out, music, strong, theatre, you name II by it. I'm seeking it special man to enhance my life.
London, 12:3311
FIRST-TIME ADVENTISER
Attactive, educated black female, 37, NS, likes travel and socialising, seeks tall 30-something main, any tachinetomatiky, bir friendship, possible romance. Must be genuine and caring, East Midlands area, 12:330
PERSONABLE
PROFESSIONAL
Sim, hirractive lady, mid-40s, varied shipmass - curiems, havel, theatre, reading, dinting out, seeking a gentleman. 48-55. similar interests, for finendship, possibly leading to more, condon-Surrey based, 12:3319
STRONG BUT SWEET
Attractive, sim, lively brunette.
30, engy most things in life seeking a considerate and attractive man, to share evenings in out with London's Surrey 12:5355
CREATIVE & ATTRACTIVE Intelligent lemale, mid-40s, green eyes, redicts har, frech-

Intelligent lemals, mid 40s, green eyes, reddish har, fred-les, seeks Similar mate, for fun and frendship Susser based. STS260
DOES THIS
SOUND LIKE YOU?
Petre, professional lady, 30+.
5, GSOH, fun, lives travel,
music, salsa, seeking a llurny, PIRST-TIME ADVERTISER

box. 13/454
PIRST-TIME ADVERTISER
Professonal active single
mum. 5/4*, N/S, redhead,
green eyes, likes outboor pursus, DIY, crafts, reading, the
ative, eating strout, seeks tall
male, 45-55. N/S prelamed.
GSOH, nice personatity, for
friendship, possible relationship, 15/276
SEEDING CREATIVE MAN
Silm, attractive brunette, 45,
5/4*, independent, genuine,
tun, positive, London and
Sunrey prelemed. 12/49/77
FRIENDLY
Practical, professional, petitle
temale, early 40s, GSOH,
loves weekends, work, staying
in, nights out, seeks happy,
affectionane, intelligent, solvent
male, for ineruship, possibly
leading to relationship, Southy
central London area. 275/280
ATTRACTIVE
8. INTELLIGENT
Slack woman, seeks man, 5060, any nationality, who, like
ma, leets at times it would be
mae to stare the simple things,
like eating together, theatre
mod talking, London 15/5257
SOUL MATE
FOR MILL ENINUM?

SUCL MAILLENNIUM?

Lively, professional, single
woman, mid-40s, seeks sorted
man, 45-55, to share various

man, 45-55, to shere various interests, such as wining, din-vig, chemis, countryside, books, inendship and possible relationship, Cambridge area. 355283 #5283
ROMANTIC LIBRAN
Female, N/S, no lies, solvent, into antiques, films, yoga, loves lite, travel, sursets, seeks seems retired well-bal. loves life, travel, sunsets, sceles semi-retired, well-bal-social male, solvent, who's sim, presentable and enjoys life, London, 195162 ARAB MAN SOUGHT tailan, professional lady, seeke professional Arab men, 30-35, prelerably transar, Pakusteni or Lebansse, for frendship and more, 755262

Lebansse, for friendship and more. 755262
LOVELY LADY
Bath-based ledy, signed 49, N/S, divorced, solvent, undomesticated, entities, seeks caring, communicative, solvent male, 40-60, N/S, for walks, latiks, laughs and cundles, if you can cook, please from me, 175299
OXFORD BASED
Tall, review lady, 60, seeks, unattached, N/S gentleman, 57-59, with comfortable pleasyle, car pomer, for friendship and outurps, 175281
MI THERE
Gerrune, politie, sitractive

MI TAIERIE
Genune, politie, altractive
London women, seeking u
lund, sensitive, warm men,
40+, for triendship and love,
155298 40-, for triendship and tove. 25288
LONGON LADY
Good-toolung famele, just 45, 5-4*, GSOH, light brownblue, self-employed, various triesests. Ifkes classical mustic, story-telling, fleetire, travel, arts, swindring, horse noing, saling, sports, seeks like-minded men, 275248
BILUE MOON
Kind, loving, sensitive, warm-

Chinese temale, 35, student, enjoys music, reading, films, travel, seeks a triend, 35-40, tall, stim, N.S., well educated.

tall, sim, N.S, wall educated.
London area. 12:5102
BACK FROM ABROAD intellectual, ective musical journales, ages 36. sightly unconventional. Cambridge graduate, likes to laugh, seeks postove, well-traveled gart, similar age, to explore the London. 12:4974
ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS
Ameniates, whitelite, prising and

ABSOLUTELY PABULOUS
Anculate, athletic, anistic, amisble, attractive, professional
woman, who is a funny, N.S.
many interests, seeks Smillar
mate, in his 40s. West
Michards area preferred.
25:5278
20020859

Now slightly taded, to attrac-

live grandmother, 67, seeking a true male thend, GSOH, to share theatre, music, travel,

metaphysics and a belief in miracles. NW Manchester.

Kind, loving, ser

mate, of similar nature, 36-46, with GSOH, for special friend-ship/retamonship. Herts area. fires cats, can make me laugh. thinks laterally and isn't weird. Aven/surround, 274961 THOUGHTFUL COMPANION 125101 EASTERN ENGLAND Independent, Dawn French-type lady, 46, with intelligence humour, and warm heart, likes Slim and attractive, indepen-dent woman, seeking a kively, energetic, professional man. N/S, into walking, countryside, saling, filme, theatre, must be emotionally available, 50sh. London and eastern England.

MOLDAY PLANS?
Professional female, 47,
professional female, 47,
professional female, 47,
professional female, 48,
professional female, 47,
profess HOLIDAY PLANS?

ARTISTIC LADY Diverced, blonde female, mid-40s, Hempton Court based, crazy SOH, loves arts, seeks libe-minded, professional man. 374979 SHARE MY JOY OF LIVING SHAME MY JOY OF THING Fitness, music and intellect an drace important strands in the life of this sem-bulk, active woman, 49. Essex Suffolk bon-der, 284979

SEEKING NEW LIFE SEEKING NEW LIFE
ACROSS SEAS
Attractive temale, early 30s, seeks tail, dark and handsome, caring, good-natured, solvent white doctor or similar, 30-40, with GSOH, who maybe also wishes to emigrate to, for example, Bermuda, Loolang for 1-2-1 relationship. Hertis area, 255044

GERMAN FEMALS
Warm, caring, reliable,
divorced lemale, young-looking
44, 57, mediam build, copperfolue, attractive, two children, into reading, music,
countryside, animals, cooking,
restaurants, theatire, cineme,
more, seeking a men, for a
long-lesting relationship.
London. 255147
ATTRACTIVE AND POLITE
Feminine Continental lady,
early 40s, seeks cultured man,
40+, for Intendship, possibly
more London. 25525
TREMOV LEFTY
Professional, tall, sim, redheaded woman, 40s, with
strong Circistan fauth, rith travel, music, DIV, catts, seeks
companible man. No nightwingers or paramilitanes
pisase_London. 274971
LONDON WOMAN
Warm, bright and easygoing,
young late 50s, fives travel,
film, theatre, music, reading,
walls, seeking a special man,
sociable and emotyonally
adventining, to share fun,
friendship and whatever.
TES142
PETITE BRUNETTE WARM, INTELLIGENT WOMAN Treative, successful, verious interests, young 47, not sim, stimactive, optimistically seeking a male soul mate. South London. All replies answered. 25:51:56

ATTRACTIVE MALE YOU'RE LOOKING...

Would like to meet an intellectual female, for romance and relationship. \$25431 city breaks and wild times.

Very attractive man, enjoys most things, seeking a temale, under 70. London, 125205 BRISTOL BASED BRISTOL BASED
Cerro, protessional male, late
40s. 6°, cosmopolitza, into spirmesist, sport, good communication, honesty and empathy,
seeking a femicine, warnahearled female, to share out
humanity with me. 255184
ASIAN SOUGHT
Tall sim, intelligent, romantic.

MEW BEGINNING
Male, 50, wearing well, interest
in arts, onems, world travel,
lood, aruse, seeigng a temble,
for happy times and a stable
restionship, London, 12:5314
HONEST AND CREATIVE
Professional male, 30 into ru incree
Pymouth male, early 40s.
GSDH, with an interesting job
and a controtable lifestyle,
enjoys walking, staling, cooking, music, circums, theatre,
are and society, seeling a
lite-minded, fun-loving temple.
75535

Professional male, 39, imp music, theatre, creative arts, seeks fromest, caring female, 35-45. Essex based, 175316 TOWN/COUNTRY HOUSE Cuse weekends, based beauti-lal beaches, othered to stressed, elim, moreosome London girl, aped 20-40, by hardsome, romercic, signity med gay, South Wales, besen, 254978

V1120 - Perfectionists with quick minds and vivid imaginations. They use their reasoning powers to get to the heart of any problem. Compatibility: Pisces, Taurus and Aries.

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BE SECTION: We suggest that the first meeting about the held in a public plane and that you do not seven your full quant, address or bouse phone number sent you are construints doing so. SEEKING SOMEONE SPECIAL Genuine male, 30, attractive, likes eating out, lims, music, travel, seeks lond, finerally what longale, 15-30, for them ship, possible relationship. Landon/Articlesex area. 975417



Arrazon and the child within.
ISSO48
BACK FROM ABROAD
Intellectual, scrive, music journales, 36, sightly unconventional, Cambridge graduelle, likes to laugh, seeks positive, well-travelled gard, similar age, to explore Rie. London, 174974
REAL WOMAN
Styles London lady graduate, 30+, mised race, warm, lively, arts onemed, seeks soul mate, 35-50, Oxford/London, 174843
VERTY SINILEY
Single murn, 34, brunette, with merciless toestagers, seeking creative main, with library, who OFFISEAT GRADUATE hamale companion, 50+, to where an galleries, concerns eners an gaseries, concern and charms sec., also exploring London or country, conversa-tion and other simple plea-bures, 275151 ATTRACTIVE SWEDISH MAN Al IMACITY OF SCHOOL |
Male, 23, brown/blue, likes
concerts, nature, deep converconcerts, nature, deep conve sation, walks, seeking a ternale, 20-30, recited pre-

Young mele, 41, cultured, diverse, arrusing, active, seeks temale, 28-33, for triendship, romanon and a fernity. Fing me and I'll make you smile. Bath, 125383

SINGLE WAITE MALE
Warm, widy, fit, solvent, educated male, 37, seeking simitar, black or Indian tady, to
strate thoughts, laughter and
the good things in Sie. 25534
HONEST AND HANDSOME
Gracuate. 38, 5117, solvent,
successful in the sirs, loves
outdoors, fine wine, fivends
and good conventation (sometimes sibly, sometimes semicis),
sacking like-minded, stim girk,
under 40, Landon, 355418
REAL WORLD? GET LOSTI
Male a better world with me. Civil servant, 25, 56", romantic, OSOH, emplye pube, music, keeping fit, eating out, travel, seeks ledy, 18-30, ami-lar interests, GSOH for kvend-

ler interests, GSOH for Insend-sivis, posebyl leading to more. 175396
WOODY ALLEW FRIEDA KAHLOW
Multicultural, sincere, academic male, 35, seeking a widy female, possibly with a tessoo, to share the arry aspects of the or salsa. Manufrester, 275432

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Call Club Rendezvous NOW on:

EFFRYESCENT
AND EXTROVERT
Single mails, young 38, nonsmoter, no bes, engrys life, it
and active, leen on sport (lostbell and crickent), cinama, esting out, having a drink and
sico travel. It this takes your
tancy, please give me a call,
\$754.30 ATTRACTIVE ARCHITECT Interior designer, early 30s, 510°, sain build, green eyes, Blass music, creativity, loves chalmen, seekung at ft, shm, fun, attractive, creative lemale, similar profession and age, with morals and values, to actitle down with London or surrounding area. #55319

EDINBURGIN BASED

Serole, wel-built male, 32. Single, well-built mate, 32. 5'10', bland/blue, N/S, likes Chernel, restaurants, shopping, pubs, clubs, swimming, seek-ing ternale, 24-32, GSOH, for friendship and more, \$75208

SWEETNESS Tender, form, attractive, condiderd and land male, 28, seeking a formation, potto female, 18-, for freendsing, numerica and lasting love, 17595
TRY LPE Yorkshreman, 37, 61°, fit, prolessional, seeks intelligent, ancultate female, 25-38, to strate interests, bood, wine and outdoor pursuate. Gloucs. 275103
EXCITIC ADVENT Kind, somethin, land, honest, find, samethin, land, honest,

understanding, seeks company of similar, animal-lowing female, 50+, to stare valis to galence, concerts and other armite plassures, London area, 75385
SALUNG ADVENTURE Next three to five years, in 40' yacht? Met 6', presentable, easygoing, expensioned saller, seeking simmeth, seesich resistant, happy, NVS ternale mate, 50ish, South Weet.



braveling, diring out and weekends every, seeking a ganulma lady, 45-55, 175208
CALL ME
Respectable black male, 26, Oxford brased, seeking a female. If you enjoy films, clas-stical music, jazz and han, give-me a call. If you don't, please call me anyweyt, 175501
BE MY LOVE
Young, professional male, 31, was compenionship. Lives like to the hill, loves the out-doors and world bravel, seeks lady, 23-23, to share kughter and treatistip. 275279

Good-looking, ganulme male, mid-40s, 58°, based in Brighton, sam build, N/S, into

any rationally, for compani ship, possibly lots more. 12:51:60 OKPORD BLUES

OKPORD BLIPS
Bord postgraduate student,
28, seeks petts fermale, for
very close relationship.
195161
SEEKING A GIRLERGEND
Somative, Swedish, white male,
22, seeking a caring lemide, 2030, for chass, dimer etc.
PLATING, 195062
POSSIBLE FUTURE
liddende/Warwickshire-based,
627, bite eyes, seeks attractive, tall, siammen, terminime
lach, under 55, who enjoys the
but thinks sharing is better,
who is also looking for caring,
faithful partner and linend.
255275

LOTS OF FUN Good-louking white male, 27, 56°, stim build, brown/blue, blue hip hop, chrema, muse-ums, tootball, seeks agractive temale, 18-37, N/S, for Inend-

MARRIAGE MINDED
Tall, attractive male, 35, seeks
female soul mate, for file's
pleasures. Landon. 255300
CXFORD BLUES
Bored, posignaturals student,
28, seeks petitis female, for
very close relationship.
TES181
SMILING EYES
Young male, 41, cultured,

25325
OHLON FIELDS
Divorsed male, 40, 6', no bas.
seeks white, professional, sincers women, for something special. South London.
255208
BRYON THE PHILIPLE SE

SMILING EYES
Young male, 41, cultured,
diverse, structing, schive, sechavg a tempte, 28-33, for friendsho, romance and a temity.
Aring me and f will make you
smile, Both based, \$25261
RED OR WHITE
TIM, dark, handsome, profestional (advertising over) male,
\$2, seeks attractive, independent temple, 25-30ish, to share
a bottle or two with London.
\$25297
RADICAL MAN
Unconventional, intelligent,
anticulate man, 50, into pube,
music, politice, with \$504,
seeks similar, radical women,
for exciting times, Shistol/
London, \$25207
JUDY,
DIESES CALL AGAIN. entrul (TIE PTILITELE SEE Sim male, 50, seeiing an amusing lemele periner, to shere a lourney to the oracle at Debrit time gotton, Newcastle, 175312 SACRED UNITY

JATOY, PLEASE CALL AGAIN

ACRED UNITY
Active and creative, N/S, N/D
world citizen, who's into spirituatily, humanity, reality, wishes
to sinus infinite space, with a
lough, beartiful, independent,
serene, stylish, successful and
self-assurad, un-sal, younger
lemale, 30s. Europe, 275382
CALL ME
Professoral chap, 39, 64*, is
seeking a lady, to share brendstrip, time and a love of the
countryside. Landon, Bucks or
Northants area. 275321
MANCHESTER MAN
Bread-shouldered, honest, mil-PLEASE CALL AGAIN
Unable to contact you by 5mail. Male, 30, 8°, brown/blue,
average build, good-looking,
anloys most things in life, likes
music, sport, very confident,
outgoing, laid back, seeks
female, apad 25-33, who is
attractive, lively, for relationshin, 475-086 MANCHESTER MAN Broad-shouldered, homesi, reli-able, mixed race man, seeks interesting female, 20+, with varied interests. 205204 CUIDALY OLDER WOMAN? Honest and dependable, quite shy, caring country ted, 30,

attractive, Invelv, for relation-ship, 175086
FRESH NEW YEARI
Good-locking, professional male, 31, 510°, seeks skimy/big-built butbity famale, any age or colour, Very large women welcome, if you leave a message, if premise to get beck to you. 275153 RED ALERT NW. 275323 FOR MEMBERS OF CARRY

FOR MEMBERS OF CARRY...
Bradshaw's Army, whether a
generation solder, a 35-yearold recently separated gentlemen, is ce-entening the desire
war. Uncolled by years of stintion and battle. I hope to capture someone is heart soon.
London area. 175302
YOU HAVE TO
ROUL THE DICE TO...
get past go! Cardst-based
computer angineer, 42. dark,
sightly overweight, attractive,
seeking a warm, green-eyed
rechead, probably graduate,
sightly left of cartie, into sits.
Phone now in throw a sit.
17583

BROAD HORIZONS
Clephann-bassed, aducated,
sim, Ri, nice-looking, workly
guy, 42, with meny Indoor end
ousdoor cultural hitanesis;
seekiding a lamilar fermale, 5545, with similar back-ground,
with broad hitanesistamind and Phone now to throw a str. 15263

INCURABLE ROMANTIC Well-built, professional, cutgoing male, 44, N/S, seeks temple, 50-45, for long-larm, loving relationship, who snipps countryside, National Trust, 21s and travel. 15 5282

AGE IS ONLY A NUMBER.

Said the Buildha, Interesting male, aged 54, 59°, good build, Windson Teasibushouther based, likes watershow siding, travelling, chring out and week-entils away, saeking a ganulmi with broad harmstakinind and horizons, lor whatever transpless, 12:5135
BUBBLY BLACKWHATE Male, subject blackwhate, medium/well-built, atmotive famale, 27:37, GSCH, who likes a good laugh. Cambridge!
London. Single mum welcome. 17:5088

Anto regularitics feals, 30, tall, plins, enjoys leap-fit, good tood, conversation, ocuntry walks, rights in or out, seeks ledy, for frenchip, fun, leading to possible turnames, Yorkshire area.

32, to share the good things in WHEN LOVE FINDS YOU

white termile, 25-39, piniting white termile, 25-39, piniting interests, for friendship, leading to a relationship, 13:5150 EASTERN PROMISE Easygoing bloke, 50, likes sating out, onema, walks and

Professional, stim-built, Intell-gant, funny mann, seeking the women missing from his file, 32-40. London. 225145 HERTFORDSHIRE Attractive, Intelligent and stensi-tive man, in late 30s, with GSOH, seeking a lady, for rela-tionship. 225141 MASIC MAN Torousey binder. 49, claric held. MUSIC MAN Torquey bloke, 49, dark heir, alm build, GSOH, lives by the

sen, trijoys sport. jezz/blues/dassloai music, outjazz/blues/claselosi music, out-door activities, seeks smart, ougoing female, 25-40, for friendelnis, possibly leading to more. 225046 "TALL SLIM DESIGNER Design Conteutant/part-time songwriter/producer, 45, 8°, sim, It, own light brown hair, CSOH, seeks tallish, slim, intelligent, porsecus lady. 30-intelligent, porsecus lady. 30intelispent, gargeous lady, 30-40ish, Control London, 125154 LONDON

Professional museum, 516°s, boyish good books, brownstake, NS, ND, Blass brownstake, NS, ND, Blass brownstake, water

0171 915 6070

0839 203 001

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HOPELESS ROMANTIC WANTED ROMANTIC WANTED
Asian QUY, 35, 59°, medium/
maculine build, N/S, likes carema, driving out, seeks white
guy, under 35, for frendship,
readonship. Leicostenshire/
East Midlenris area. 125575
GAY MALE
Male, 55, 6°, large build, enjoys
ell the aris, good lood and
voire, long walls, seeks man,
for a 1-2-1 relationship.
Lescestershire area preferred.
175574

for a 1-2-1 resolution of a 1-2-1 resolution of the Leopestershife area preferred. TS374

LOVELY LANCASHIRE LAD

Tail, dark, hardsome, open, caring, sociable, modern, honest gay man, 34, into music, art, theatre, restaurants, herballsm, whildlife, Sherkock, sauras, somset, smiles, shopping, dorthes, enimals, reading, composing, You: under 40?

35524

LOOKING FOR LOVE

Good-looking, gay postgradu-

CULVINING FOR LOVE
Good-looking, gay postgradusia male, 26, 62°, brown-blue,
medium build, enjoys thestre,
welking, cinema, restring,
seeling similar, special man,
lor 1-2-1 refationality, NW
England, 755390

watering crimitar, special man, for 1-2-1 relationship, NW England. TES220 NOT TOO WILD Sim, medium-built, sincere gay male, 45, enjoys clasma, beatra, quiet riights in, setiming, travel, more, seeks similar, stable male, for intendating and lasting relationship, Linus. TES23 INTELLIGENT PROFESSIONAL Gay protessional male, 24, 6', horown halfrilyses, straight-acting, successful, comfortable lifestyle, seeks similar man, to sincere relationship, London. TES187 NOT TOO WILD Sim, medium-height gay male, 45, sincere, enjoys cinema, theatre, quiet nights in, swimming, travel, more, seeks similar, stable male, for siendship and leading relationship. Linus 155209 GOOO-NATURED NODAN Caring, hendy and effectionation, charting professional London male, 40, medium build, non-acone, seeks genutins, reliable, stable man, 50-45, for fun, inendating, possibly more.

LIFESTYLE LOOKING POR YOU

handsome, warm and nonest man, 30s, You: stylish, onti-

PESTY, HIGH HEELED LADY..., ...30-58, who walks the walk. Are you seeking a domestic

war decers looks, seeks arm lar han, for fun, finedship, outdoor pursuits and sport. 27531?
MASTERFUL. Good-looking male, mid-40s, 6', darkhute, understanding, seeks submissive female, to share multiel swarenesse and pleasure. Beds/fietra/Cambs/ East April 275/958 pleasure. Beds/ferts/Cambs/ East Angla. 175258 COULD WE BE FRIENDS? Abractive couple, for fur, head-similar couple, for fur, head-ship and cusings. Yorishire grea. 175267 POST-OP TRANSSEXUAL. Male-to-leanele, 44, Irto music, nights out, staying in, having fur, seeks lemale, for fun, headship and possibly more. Manchester area, 175199 FETISH Creative male, 29, seeks

adventurous, transigent temale, to experiment with 12 5088 HI THERE!

65.035

CLASSIC CHRISTIA

222

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FEX SITE

MODERN MANNERS: YOUR CUT-OUT-AND-KEEP GUIDE TO SURVIVING THE MINEFIELD



We are finding it difficult to cope with two children and two jobs and we're thinking of taking on an au pair girl. At least, my husband is. You hear so many stories about men running off with the an pair, and I don't want to have my family destroyed in the same way. How can I vet potential au pairs

to make sure that I don't allow some

man-stealing hussy into my home? Rebecca, Pimlico

What are you saying? That you don't trust your husband, or that you don't trust yourself? Your marriage is probably at greater risk from the women your husband encounters at work and associates with social drinking and moments of power, than it. is from someone he will generally astropiate with nappies and washing-up. That said, you can't vet au pairs unless they're already in the country, but if you want to be sure, I would advise hiring someone from a former Communist country. One of the first things that went under the Communist regimes

were those bourgeois affectations, grace and pretty manners, and there is still some way to go before those who grew up in these circumstances readopt them. I would recommend the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary as good sources. Avoid girls from war zones, as they are often understandably desperate and will do a lot to ensure their future in a safer environment. Also avoid Latinas, as before you know it they'll be too busy earning extra pounds, setting up salsa classes in local bars, to look after the children.

Dear Serena, Further to Bob's letter of last week, I would dearly love to have a stag night, but when I think about my male friends, I realise that I don't really like that many of them. Should I just forget about it? Stanley, Seagrove

Like them? Who said anything about liking the people on your stag night? Stag nights are about drinking, ritual humiliation and shaving foam, aren't

they? You don't need to like someone to burst a condom filled with water over his head.

Dear Serena I recently broke my shoulder falling off a horse. I work in one of those rather selfconsciously classiess industries, and am worried that my colleagues are beginning to suspect that I'm in fact rather posh and judge me by it (I dropped the first half of my double-barrelled name for the same reason some years ago). How do I pull the wool back over their eyes?

If anyone asks, say "Nash, it wasn't riding

Isabel, Shepherd's

a horse. I was doing my circus skills class". They might thereafter think you're a lesbian, but that shouldn't be a problem.

What do you do if you hate the art at a private view? Clarissa, Cambridge

Oh, come on, Clarissa; you may not like it, but saying so on the artist's big night would be roughly equivalent to criticising your hostess's dress sense at her birthday party. If you can't bring yourself to say something nice, say what a

wonderful time you've had at the party (which will in itself probably be a lie, if the lukewarm chardonnay I've had to drink over the years is anything to go by). If you find yourself challenged directly, grit

your teeth and say what a shame it is that they're out of your price range.

Dear Serena.

Our insurance company says that we must have alarms on the house in order to qualify for cover. What should we do about them when we have overnight guests? Should we set them and risk a false alarm, or leave them unset and invalidate our cover? Stephen, Cumbria

You can leave an alarm on in the house only if you have en-suite bathrooms. Leave some bacon sandwiches in a covered dish on the dressing-table, as there is nothing that gives you a greater hunger in the night than knowing that you cannot leave your room. Why not get a pit-bull terrier? Great protection against burglars, and guaranteed to keep the most insomniac guests safely tucked up in their rooms till morning.

I am in the entertainment industry, and am about to give birth to my first

child, and my fiancée and I still can't agree on names. The problem is that neither of us seems to have very much imagination when it comes to names, and we are afraid that our

How about something exotic, like Kuala Lumpur Sugar, Ogodougou Feng Shui, or Billabong Toesock? Or something more homely, like Accrington Stanley? If you really want a child to stand out in

Dear Serena, What precautions are you taking against the Millennium Bug?

None; as you can see, I write with a pen.

James, Whitehall

the entertainment world, call it John.

Knotty problems with the world today? Write to Dear Serena, 'The Independent', 18th Floor, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, where they will be treated with the customary sympathy



If YOU need some exercise, you now have the moral muscle to beat up everyone who's ever offended you. You are always in the right: it's not just overconfidence; your intuitive powers have the force of a revelation. This is such an odd experience your spouse may be reaching for the sedatives.

But denounce the doubters! In your ecstatic mood, you will go forth and be followed. You will outnumber your enemies, and with God on your side, you are unbeatable.

TAURUS

AS YOU lift your snout up from the sexual trough

that you've been smiffling in, the stars will be

reflected in your eyes. Enormous erotic truths

will be glimpsed, and you will seem to under-

stand how that thrashing around among the turn-

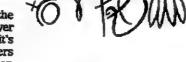
bled sheets has a profound but peculiar

connection to the cosmos. Love at first sight will

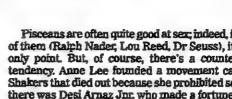
be embarrassing if you so happen to meet first

in public. But there is healing in your hands (it

is no wonder that your hit-rate is so high



YOUR STARS: IT COULD HAPPEN



ome people need to be taken out of themto yourselves. The symbol for Pisces - the two fish swimming in opposite directions graphically represents the essence of this most irritating sign. In one direction we can watch Constantine the Great and Teddy Kennedy, while in the other there are Brian Jones and Mary Jo

The Piscean philosopher Schopenhauer illustrated this truth by developing a theory to demonstrate that will is more important than knowledge - the precise opposite of what Pisceans believe. Except, of course, for fish that go swimming in the other direction, like Rupert Murdoch.

You are famously incompetent. John Holland invented the submarine, but he did it by accident the was trying to invent a frigate, but it largely sank). Longfellow wrote the "Song of Hiawatha". And then there was, for a

Pisceans are often quite good at sex; indeed, for many selves; you Pisceans need to be put back in of them (Ralph Nader, Lou Reed, Dr Seuss), it is their only point. But, of course, there's a countervailing tendency. Anne Lee founded a movement called the Shakers that died out because she prohibited sex. Then there was Desi Arnaz Jnr, who made a fortune by buying a TV pilot and taking out all the upside-down activity (he also had to cut the title down from I Love Lucy ecause Boy Does She Squeal).

And, of course, there is Pairick Moore who exhibits the Piscean proclivity for getting so fat that sex proves itself to be impossible.

The Piscean mission is to transcend the physical world, to rise out of your body, and exist in the angelic world which is glimpsed (according to the disciplines of Chaldean numerology) only between the first and second gulp of the third gin sling. Your spiritual maturity leaves you unimpressed with the world and its rewards. It is significant that the one Marx brother born under this sign was Zeppo.



SAGITTARIUS

STOP GUSHING. Your emotional overflow is slopping about and making it difficult to keep your vessel properly trimmed. If you want to make use of these bizarre feelings (altruism on this scale is not just impractical; it's showing off), you need far more discipline yourself. Let your right hand not know what your left is doing. Do not love your neighbour as your neighbour's wife unless you can bear the consequences. Turn your base desires into religion, or art, at least.



CAPRICORN

THERE ARE parallel influences that shouldn't affect you, but you are suffering from a romantic uneasiness - Venus or Pluto may be responsible. No, it isn't indigestion, something is moving through the shadows in the crypt of your heart. You need a sacrifice to bring you to life. Perhaps the victim will be yourself. There will be a rebirth, but you'll have to believe it first. Love may hide itself in the mystery of sex (are your fingers too cold to unwrap it?).



GEMINI

among the sick).

SOMEONE'S SHAKEN your kaleidoscope and you've rearranged yourself into a great-souled, philosophical, high-church frame of mind. Unusual eloquence enlivens your usual volubility. Teachers, politicians and lecturers will benefit but the people who have to listen to them will are all very well, but people prefer integrity, consistency, and reliability (all your shortest suits) only because they are so boring.



LEO

NOW YOU really will be impossible. You have the confidence to do things, and the energy with which to do them. Now you'll be charging off in front of your mystified acolytes, yodelling "Follow me!" - and goodness knows how the poor saps will react. How well have you frightened them? Alas for the laggards, your sense of loyalty is so exaggerated that you will return for anyone left behind. Bring major projects on to the front burner and turn up the gas.



LIBRA -

YOU'RE UP for anything now, with Venus in trine with Pluto and sextile to Uranus. You will benefit from a reputation for kindness (you know you're too quick to be kind) and you can give off a marvellous aura of sky-coloured love which is fabulously effective at getting people well beyond your normal reach in to the pit. But these pleasures have pains of their own. You can't connect so intimately without suffering separation pangs. Only money will really cheer you.



AQUARIUS

YOUR VIVID emotional life has just acquired some new colours (what a spectrum you cover now). Your musical abilities will allow you to rhyme your way into the bed of innocent fools, and your mathematical abilities will enable you to reason your way out again. Your regular partners should give you a longer leash than usual. but a tighter collar. Sudden love affairs break out like brush fires, but if treated carefully, the root stock will not be damaged.



CANCER

THERE ARE admirers of yours out there: ones for whom you still harbour latent but dangerous feelings. There are practical and essentially irrelevant reasons why they haven't pressed their cause with you. Your view of whether you should open up a dialogue changes almost daily. There is danger beyond your garden fence; but then you have a talent for deception. You also have an ability to pretend it's not happening, and that may come to the same.



VIRGO

BROAD-MINDEDNESS has never been much in vogue with Virgo (what's the point of it?) but now a weak relationship with Mercury may move you closer to the keyhole, at least, and thus enlarge your view of the other side. You benefit from a fluency of expression, and what you lack in emotional nimbleness you make up for in integrity. You will find this is the week for subtle, not to say invisible, self-promotion. Travel, if you feel secure enough at work.



SCORPIO

YOU CAN bounce people's heads around like basketballs. The court is yours, and everyone on it. You're a lover no longer; you're a leader; you need action, so those fat boys better get their big butts off the bench and start doing what they're told. You are suffused with inspiration and in touch with the deep structure of the universe (it's pretzel-shaped). As for sex, a trine between Pluto and Venus will encourage others to grovel across your body with hot kisses.

ROYALMINT, If he didn't exist

counter to all this. It diminishes the achievement of the true

perpetuates the myth that there

is something out of reach about

stars - the contestants - and

celebrities. Life is confusing

enough without false signals

2 Of what is ROYALMINT an

3 A classic one: can the modified

chessboard be covered with 31

dominoes [See top diagram]?

Ben Slocock was the first out of

being beamed at us.

Points to ponder 1 What is the longest word

FLLXEOORIG

anagram?

findable in the letters

Answers next week.

Last week's puzzle

we'd have to invent him. But the function of falsely

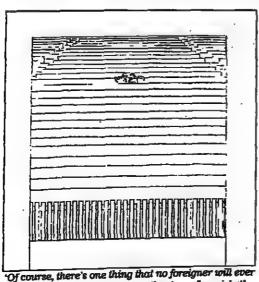
intelligent celebrities runs



PISCES

THE WELTER of emotional effects you are creating will turn the stomach of your audience. Stop splashing about. If you do have a sense of universal mysteries and deep emotional structures (and you might because Jupiter and Neptune have a relationship), use it to do something useful - like placing your bet on tomorrow's value of sterling. Sublimate for success. And before you try a major project, make sure your veins have been given the attention they need.

CLASSIC CARTOONS MARTIN PLIMMER ON KENNETH BIRD



understand and that's our enthusiasm for cricket'

KENNETH BIRD'S deftly drawn Ministry of Information hieroglyph "careless talk costs lives" admonished passers-by from every wall in wartime Britain. That and his prolific output of war jokes has made his distinctly meagre drawing

style one of the visual references by which we imagine that period. This is quite an evement for a cartoonist

who didn't believe in the

primacy of the image. "It is really better to have a good idea with a bad drawing," he said, "than a bad idea with a good drawing." As art editor of Punch from 1937 and editor from 1949 to 1953 (the only cartoonist to be given the job) Bird championed that creed.

A former Royal Engineer, who took the pseudonym Fougasse from the name of a First World War anti-personnel mine, Bird died in 1965.



that discourage numeracy. The bumbling Richard Whiteley also has an important role, extending a right to watch to all who see only four-letter words in FLLXEOORK or cannot see the

wordsmiths was a non-starter Why can't the whisperers behind the scenes be seen openly dishing out the verb sap? Because then the celebrities would look bad. So the celebrities find themselves instead in a false position. Oh that a screen would topple revealing a blinking huddle of nerds clustered around a wordfinder

ASPECTS OF Countdown are, it

makers going out of their way to pretend that something is the

now seems, also not what they

seem. I refer to programme

case when it clearly ain't. Most of Countdown's 3.5

million viewers must have

suspected long before Matthew Parris's outing of the show that

the glib skills of many visitors to

invisible helpers. The alternative hypothesis that all celebrity

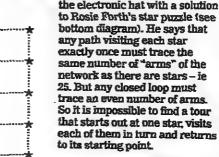
Dictionary Dell owed much to

guests were stunning

What is interesting is the idea that such a programme needs celebrities in the first place. If a celebrity has a skill beyond the facility to become famous, it's unlikely to overlap with anagrams and sums. Indeed the latter skill is so rare nowadays it has made Carol Vorderman the best-paid woman on TV. She also shows that one may shine at mental tasks and yet not become an anorak - a great first step in undermining the social forces



nine-letter anagram in

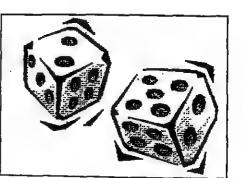


same number of "arms" of the network as there are stars - ie 25. But any closed loop must trace an even number of arms. So it is impossible to find a tour that starts out at one star visits

E-mail: indy@puzzlemaster.co.uk

BACKGAMMON

CHRIS BRAY



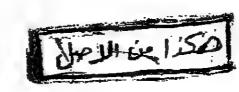
THE INTERNET continues to encroach on our daily existence, and the world of backgammon is no exception. Latest results from tournaments around the world can be obtained at a moment's notice, and the backgammon news group is a forum for the exchange of ideas and theory providing an excellent place for those new to the game to

source information. Playing backgammon on the Internet is also a growth area and one of the best sites is Netgammon. It has more than 15,000 members from around the world and has several advantages over some of its rivals: response time is very quick, board graphics are

excellent and the organisers help players by arranging

Most games on the Internet are played as short three, fiveor seven-point matches. Your results are logged and you receive an ELO rating. You begin at 1,500 and your rating is adjusted according to your performance; around and above 1,900 is exceptional.

Netgammon provides a monthly newsletter, to which I contribute a regular article, and is forging links with Biba (British Isles Backgammon Association), You can try out Netgammon free of charges for the first three months. Find it at: http://www.netgammon. com/us/index.htm



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Life in Spirite

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S & P. Bufrigue

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SUNDAY TELEVISION & RADIO

BBC1

6.40 Teletubbles (8700003), 7.20 Match of the Day (6226461). 8.30 Breakfast with Frost (52770). 9.30 The Heaven and Earth Show (76567), 10.30 Match of Their Day (18916), #1.00 Porridge (8119). 11.30 CountryFile (9848). 12.00 On the Record (79515), 1.00 EastEnders (8079515).

2.20 Herbie Goes To Monte Carlo (Vincent McEveety 1977 US). Dean Jones stars in this secuel about a loveable Volkswagen (226935).

4.05 Tom and Jerry (4532770). 4.10 Are You Being Served? (6785206). 4.40 Masterchef 1999 (2717770). 5.10 News; Weather (8212003). 5.30 Local News (845751), 5.35 Songs of Praise (S) (T) (727867).

6.10 CHUICE All along the Matchtower, Sitcom set in an early warning station, See Comedy of the Day, below (121683).

6.40 Antiques Roadshow, Hugh Scully returns to Syon House to Introduce more hitherto unseen clios from the series (S) (T) (574022).

7.25 Five Go Mad in the Kitchen (S) (594935).

7.30 Holiday: Fasten Your Seat

Belt (R) (S) (T) (751).

8.00 Comic Relief's Great Big Excellent African Adventur Julian Clary, Stephen Fry and Geri Halliwell collect more videotapes from out of Africa (S) (T) (557916).

8.50 News; Weather (T) (415409).

9.90 Love Town. Continuing the docusoap about Gretna Green, marriage capital of the UK (S) (T) (1683).

9.30 The Lakes. Danny and Lucy finally confess their true feelings for each other (S) (831577).

10.10 Comic Relief Jukebox. More archive comedy clips (S) (137770).

10.30 Mrs Merton and Malcolm (S)

11.00 Smith and Jones (R) (S) (3428).

11.30 Heart of the Matter. Joan Bakewell discusses circumdision (S) (T) (370596).

12:10 FILM Raggedy Man (Jack Fisk 1981 US). Divorcée Sissy Spacek falls for a sailor in Second World War Texas (Then Weather) (221130). To 1.45am.

BBC2

8,30 Little Mouse on the Prairie (9886954), 8.50 Alvin and the Chiomunks (9860770), 9.45 Wayne Manifesto (4390848), 9.40 Wild House (9963732). 10.05 No Sweat (9495003). 10.30 Grange Hil (2089799). 10.55 Sub Zero (7458645), 11.20 Grange Hill (6077515), 11.50 O Zone (5305157). 12.05 The Simosons (1633698), 12.30 Robot Wars (58022), 1.00 Around Westminster (88664). 130 Sunday Grandstand (90068799). 1.35 Skiing (1128041), 2.20 Rugby League (3468886), 3.10 Rugby Union (8434003). 3.25 Rugby League (6599022), **4.10** Tennis (4550964), **5.10** Rugby League (5800916), 5.15 Rugby Union (9926157), 5.55 Animal Zone

6.00 Watch Out Britain. Britain's

6.20 Chimpanzee Diary (S) (575480).

6.35 The Natural World. Documentary looking at the wildest animals in Africa - the huge lions of the Tsavo National Park in Kenya (S) (600886).

7.30 The Money Programme, British manufacturing - usaless, or a victim of the global economy? (S) (T) (393).

8.00 Loyalists. More Loyalist gunmen describe their violent past to Peter Taylor in his excellent ongoing series about the Troubles (S) (T) (588886).

8.50 Vintner's Tales with Jancia Robinson (R) (S) (T) (406751).

3.00 fled Dwarf VIII. Rimmer makes use of a "sexual magnetism virus" (S) (T) (9225).

9.30 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. With Frank Skinner, Leeroy Thomhill and Rick Wakeman (S) (T) (78886).

10.00 Tribe - UK. Trailer (S) (407041).

10:10 CHOICE Land and Freedom (Ken Loach 1995 UK) Loach's Spanish Civil War drama. See Film of the Day, below (S) (831428).

11.55 EUM La Cérémonie (Claude Chabrol 1995 Fr). Chabrol's version of Fluth Renders A Judgement in Stone stars Sandrine Bonnaire and Isabelle Huppert (Then Weather) (831428).

2.00 BBC Learning Zone; Personal Effectiveness (30449). 4.00 Languages (54343), 5.90 Eusiness and Training (6150401). To 5.45am.

ITV LWT

6.00 CMTV (22409), 8.00 Diggit (2599225). 9.25 The Worst Witch (3213867). 10.00 Sunday Morning (91138), 11.00 My Favourite Hymns (6515). 11.30 Crosstak (4916), 12,00 That's Esther (64683), 1.00 ITN News; Weather (94761683). 120 Jonathan Dimbleby

2.00 The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp (Michael Powell. Emeric Pressburger 1943 LK), Boer War veteran Roger Livesey looks back over his life in this intelligent satire (15511645).

4.50 Big Screen (3039664), 5.25 London Weekend Tonight (8220022).

5.45 Dream Ticket (270886).

6.15 ITN News; Weather (T) (587225)

6.30 Michael Barrymore's My Kind of Music, Michael Barrymore hosts the entertainment show in which competitors get the chance to . perform - as well as show off their musical knowledge (S) (T) (29003).

7.30 Coronation Street. Fita returns home to find Sharon and Afte at war (S) (T) (119).

B.DO Hourthwat, Mike and Jacklets future looks uncertain when Jackie's unde becomes a suspect in a hitand-run accident (S) (T) (1799).

9.00 London's Burning. Last in the current series of the firefighting scap, and a massive fire on board a container ship puts George in danger (S) (T) (1935).

10.00 Tarrant on TV. Features a game show where contestants get coated in wax (28393).

10.30 ITN News; Weather (1) (450521).

10.45 The South Bank Show. A look at what has happened in dance and theatre in South Africa during the first five years of ANC rule (S) (759003).

11.45 The Jesus File with Tony Robinson (533867). 12.15 Still in Bed with MeDinner (9293333), 12,50 Snooker: Liverpool Victoria Chanty Challenge (9288468), 2,20 SeaQuest 2032 (7329772). 3.15 Jonathan:: Dimbleby. (8948826). To 4am.-

Channel 4

7.05 Animai Alphabet (9475225), 7.15 Salty's Lighthouse (885%), 7.45 T4: Bug Alert (87886), 845 Saved by the Bell (2669480), 8.40 City Guys (960657). 9.10 Catrlog (3221886). 9.45 Planet Pop (1414393), 10.00 The Waltons (82480). 11.00 Hollycaks (2157003), 12.40 Dishes (1240225). 12.40 Dishes (3115680). 140 The Cosby Show (9484664). 1.45 Football Italia (91222664).

4.00 FILM Geordie (Frank Launder 1955 UK). Weedy Bill Travers determines to build up his physique and enter the Olympic Games in this Highland tale co-starring Alastair Sim

6.00 Time Team. Tony Robinson and the team return to a previous dig in 1996 which uncertified a Roman villa in the Cotswolds, and discover that the vita dates from earter than previously thought - to the first days of the Roman occupation (T) (68409).

7.00 Escape to River Cottage, Hugh Fearniey-Whittingstall enters his

produce at a local show (T) (8374), 7.30 Fusion, Follows a 17-year-old boy of

mixed race as he searches for his

8.00 Tiger Shark; Legendary Thug of the Saa. Firm-maker Ben Cropp tags and tracks a tiger shark to determine its movements along the

Great Barrier Reef (1) (2041).

father (T) (461).

9.00 CHOICE Shanghai Vice. Film-maker Phil Agland's revealing documentary series about Shanghai's murky underworld. See Documentary of the Day, below (S) (T) (9577).

10.00 FILM Keens Sutre: a Tale of Love (Mira Nair 1996 Ind/UK/ Jap/Ger), India in the 16th century and two virgins learn the lessons of love (and sex) in this sumptuously photographed but otherwise disappointing effort from the director of Salaam Bombayl (1) (77309770).

12.05 Boyz Unlimited (9295791). 12.40 Babylon 5 (4907333). 1.35 Dark Skies (3747820), 2.25 Dweebs (5119028).

2.55 FILM Labyrinth (Jaroni Jres 1991 Ger). A film director, Maximilian Schell shooting a piece about Kafka in Prague, gets involved in the story of the Holocalist (3874449). To 4258m

Channel 5

6.00 Wildlife SOS (27900225). 6.25 Plonsters (52786312), 6,30 Havakazoo (8125770). 7.00 Dappledown Farm (6443515). 7.30 Mikshakel (7096729). 7.35 Wimzie's House (3698041). 8.00 The Mission (4471515). 8.30 Do You Believe in? (4470886), 9.00 Stickin' Around (446138), 9.30 Milkbar (9482732). 10.00 Mirror, Mirror (8118022). 10,30 The Valley Between (4450022). 11.00 USA High (2491190). 11.30 Singled Out (2409119), 12.00 The Mag (50690312). 1.10 5 News (80:39022), 1.20 Frostrup on Sunday (89901935). 1.50 Movie Chart Show (11875409), 2.20 Exclusive (5120428). 3.05 Family Affairs (63870157). 5.20 Serious Money (21450409).

5.50 Recules and the Amazon Women (John Lawson 1994 US). The original feature-length film that snawned both Hercules and Xena - the Warrior Princess. So if you fancy getting up to speed with these mythological hotch-potches, start here, With Kevin Sorbo and Lucy Lawless (T) (98084119).

7.30 5 News and Sport (6818157).

8.00 Wild Encounters, Documentary looking at how a group of young snow geese followed their human "parents" across North America (S) (T) (1730886).

9.00 FILM Deceived by Trust (Chuck Bowman 1995 US). Tense drama about a social worker's attempts to expose a school principal who is molesting one of his pupils. When she tries to investigate, she encounters a wall of stence and suspects that educational authorities are conspiring to protect the principal's reputation. Stepfanie Kramer stars (S) (T) (44969664). :

10.40 Wing and a Prayer. Legal-eagle drame. Anna and Simon defend a man charged with trading in military secrets, while Carl and Catherine try to secure political asytum for a young Nigerian woman (S) (T) (6474732).

1L40 The Comedy Network (7026428). 12.15 Sports Talk with Steve Scott (1078325), 12.45 Ice Hockey - NHL (S) (65463739). 4.40 Tibs and Fibs (R) (S) (92448913). 5.05 Move On Up (R) (S)- --

ITV/Regions

Anglia
As LWT except: 11.30 Angla
As LWT except: 11.30 Angla
News Sunday Supplement (4916).
2.00 Eye of the Eagle (6916). 2.30
Bugs Burny in King Arffurs's Court
(654). 3.00 Firm: Cheaper by the
Dozen (80480). 4.30 Snooker
Liverpool Victoria Charity
Challenge (9623136). 5.35 Whidife
Rescue (997312). 6.05 Angla News
(567461). 12.50 Snooker (8518517).
2.15 Highlander (8277082). 3.20
Jonathan Dimbleby (8949555).
3.55 Cybernet (51003381). 4.25
Soundtrax (46732604). 4.40 TV
Nightscreen (59746739). 5.00
Coronation Street (53772). Central

Central
As LWT except: 11.30 Lifeline
(1234684). 11.35 Central
Newsweek (4012136). 11.55 Central
News and Weather (1253799). 2.00
It's Your Shout (5381954). 2.40
Snooker Liverpool Victoria Charity
Challenge (8797770). 3.40 Murder,
She Wrote (7748374). 4.35
Hollywood's Greatest Stunts
(4973312). 5.30 Heart of the
Country (770). 6.00 Central News
and Weather (582770). 4.00
Jobfinder (54389). 5.00 It's Your
Shout (53772). Shout (53772).

HTV Wales HTV Wales
As LWT except: 11.00 My
Favourite Hymns (6060225). 11.25
Weish Agenda (6083312). 11.55
HTV News (1253799). 2.00 The
Front Row (40733480). 4.45
Anatomy of Disaster (9788577).
5.40 Soccer Sunday (996683).
6.40 HTV News (187374). 12.50 5.00 As Anglia.

HTV West
As HTV Wales except: 11.25
The Sunday Roast (6063312). 2.00
Murder, She Wrote (3442848). 2.50
Firm: The Caine Multiny (15718916).
Set Getaways (9710935). 5.40
West Match Plus (996683).

Meridian Meridian As LWT except: 11.30 7 Days (4013867), 11.50 Meridian News and Weather (9905111), 2.00 Cestaways (6916), 2.30 Murder, She Wrote (44312), 3.30 Film: The

Wrote (44312), 3.30 Film: The Glory Brigade* (627935), 5.05 Big Day Out (9711664), 5.35 Monkey Business (997312), 6.05 Meridian News and Weather (567461), 12.50 Snooker (8518517), 2.15 Hightander (827762), 3.10 Jonathan Dimbleby (894955), 3.55 Cybernet (51003361), 4.25 Soundtrax (46732604), 4.40 ITV Nightscreen (59746739), 5.00 Freescreen (57772).

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Westcountry Westcountry
As LWT except: 11.30
Weskend Match (4915). 2.00 Power (6916). 2.30 Murder, She Wrote (6985). 3.25 Film: The Sea Chase (28917003). 5.30 The Great Escape (770, 6.00 Goals Extre (18190). 6.05 Westcountry News (567461). 12.50 - 5.00 As Angla.

Yorkshire Yorkshire
As LWT excepts 11.30 Around the House (4916), 2.00 Calendar News (52059461), 2.05 Hague - Ten Years On (61572683), 2.35 Film: Upealrs and Downstairs (31649022), 4.30 Coronation Street (55867), 5.30 Calendar News (882041), 5.45 Goals (270886), 12.50 Cybernet (5209468), 1.20 Film: Dil Tens Assing (37865265), 4.15 Jobfinder (1229517).

Type Tens

Tyne Tees As Yorkshire excepts 11.30 Newsweek (4916), 2.00 North East News (52059461), 5.30 North East News and Sport (882041); 5.45 Cafe Sport (270886).

S4C As Channel 4 except: 12.00 Gogs" (81658683), 12.10 Rownd a Rownd: Omnibws (88282190). Rownd: Omnibws (38262190).

12.40 Fieli (76630022), 12.55 Gol (5874918), 1.40 Talkabout Welsh (2725645), 2.00 Fismko (23903206), 2.31 Brookside (93540312), 4.00 Escape to River Cottage (81572428), 4.30 Pam Fl Duw? (81561312), 5.00 Newyddion (76577732), 5.05 Maniffesto (49039157), 5.35 Pobol y Cwm (9781022), 7.30 Botwm 4 (81562041), 8.00 Dechrau Canu Dechrau Canmol (64071515), 8.30 Joni Jones (23689008), 9.05 Film: Y Pisntyn Cyntaf (98624409). 10.30 Newyddion (93261409). 10.30 Newyddion (93261409). 10.45 Film: Kama Sutra: a Iale of Love (10756886). 12.50 The Phil (93268246). 1.50 Close.

COMEDY OF THE DAY

ALL ALONG THE WATCHTOWER (6:10pm BBC1) A Sunday teatime slot between Songs of Praise and Antiques Roadshow suggests that this new sitcom is going to be more Allo! Allo! than Men Behaving Badly. Set in a remote and almost deserted RAF early warning station in the Scottish Highlands, the running gag is that the crew don't know the Cold War



DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

SHANGHAI VICE (9pm C4) Anyone who saw Phil Agland's documentary series about rural China, Beyond the Clouds, will require no further recommendation to watch his new one. It goes on the beat with the vice squad of Shanghai, where heroin has taken over from the traditional drug of choice in the city - opium. Smuggling heroin here can result in the



FILM OF THE DAY

LAND AND FREEDOM (10:10pm BBC2) Powell and Pressburger's The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp (2pm ITV) is one for the video library. Otherwise Ken Loach's Spanish Civil War epic contains another good performance from Ian Hart, here playing an unemployed Liverpudlian who signs up with the republican side before discovering that politics isn't just a case of left and right.



SATELLITE & CABLE

(7/848), 8.30 Gillette World Sport Special (70/19), 9.00 Flight Night (25732), 11.00 Goels on Sunday (73770), 12.00 Fluoby Union (9904), 1.30 Gillette World Sport Special (97374), 2.00 Superbouts (9532157), 2.55 The Heart of Football (1485845), 3.00 Super Sunday Newcastie v

2.55 The Heart of Footbal (1483645), 3.00 Super Sunday Newcastle v Arsenal (327#00), 6.25 Heart of Footbal (185041), 6.30 Rugby League (85#7), 8.00 Moto-pta (8372, 8.30 Spanish Footbal (2950), 10.30 Footbal Special (56866), 12.00 Footbal League Review (44420), 1.00 Scottish Footbal (29807), 2.00 Spanish Footbal (70307), 4.00 Closs.

Radio 1 (976-998MHz FM) (97/5-930MHz PM) 6-30 Kevin Greening. 10.00 Mark Goodier's Radio 1 Request Show. 1.00 Emma B. 3.00 Top of the Pops. 4.00 The Official UK Top 40. 7.00 Radio 1's Dance Anthomy with Dance

Anthems with Dave Pearce. 10.00 Trevor Nelson. 12.00 Clive Warren. 4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mils. Radio 2 (88-90.2MHz FM) 7.00 Don Maclean Steve Wright, 11.00 Parkinson's Sunday n 9.05 Parkinson's Sunday Supplement. 1.00 Desmond Camington. 3.00 By Popular Demand. Artie Shaw: King of the Clarinet. 4.00 As Time Goes By. 4.30 Sing Something Simple. 5.00 Parm Ayres. 7.00 Hugh Scully. 8.30 Sunday Half Hour. 9.00 Alan Kerth. 10.00 Malcolm Lavcock. 11.00 Malcolm Laycock, 11.00 The David Jacobs Collection. 12.00 Lynn Parsons. 3.00 - 4.00

Radio 3 (902-924MHz FM) 6.00 On Air. 9.00 Brian Kay's Sunday Morning. 11.00 Artist of the Week Encore. 12.15 Music Matters. 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. 2.35 Grieg. 3.00 Spirit of the Age. 4.00 100 Great Singers. 4.45 Centurions. 4.30 The Year. 5.45 Sunday Feature: Peter Stein. 6.30 Private Passions 7.30 Chair Works. In the early 1900s, Elgar embarked on trilogy of oratorios on the subject of the founding of the Christian church but only completed two of them. Brian Kay introduces a

Laurence Dale (tenor), David Wilson-Johnson (baritone), BBC Singers, BBC Symphony Chorus and Orchestra/Andrew

9.15 Sunday Play: Troy.
Three plays by Andrew
Plassik. 2: The Death of
Achilles'. With Paul
Scofield as Hermes and
Geraldine Somerville as
Helen. The story. Helen. The story resumes in the ninth year of the Trojan War. Achilles has removed himself from the action nimsel from the action after a quarrel with Agamermon. Also starring Toby Stephens, James Hayes, Oliver Cotton and lan Hogg. Director Jeremy Mortimer. (R) 10.45 World Music. Mike Gonzalez presents six programmes explor-ing the varied ethnic musical traditions of Latin America, from the beginnings of salsa and samba to the music of Colombia and the Andes and the nueva cancion -the new song of Chile. 2: The Spirit of Samba. The story of samba, a musical form that strong-ly reflects the history and

experiences of the Brazilian people. 11.15 Sunday Play: Troy. (R) **12.45** Chooin. 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night. Radio 4 (924-946MHz FM) 6.00 News Briefing. 6.05 Something Understood. 6.35 On Your Farm. 6.57 Weather. 7.00 News. 7.05 Sunday Papers. 7:10 Sunday. 7:55 Radio 4 Appeal. 8.00 News. 8.05 Sunday Papers. 8.07 Sunday Worship. 8.45 Letter from America. 9.00 News;

1115 Desert Island

Discs. 12.00 News; Bridging

RADIO the Gap. 12.30 Just a Minute. 12.58 Weather. 1.00 This Meekend. **1.30** Counterpoint.

2.00 News; Gardeners' Question Time. 2.30 A Strich in Time. 3.00 News; The Classic Serial: Joseph Andrews. 4.00 News; Writers Masterclass.
4.30 Fine Lines.
5.00 News; File on 4.
5.40 Letters from Afar.
5.54 Shipping Forecast.
5.57 Weather.
6.00 Six O'Clock News.
6.15 Pick of the Week.
7.00 News; The Archers.
7.15 Do the Right Thing.
Human behaviour is dissected with wit and dissected with wit and wisdom by Jane Thynne and guests. 8.00 News; Fat Chance.

8.00 News; Far Chance.
A bittersweet comedy in five parts by Jernny McDade. 3: "Weighty Matters". A television startums up at Wendy Bottomley's slimming club and Grahamt divulges his secret by Lea- miles." secret to Lee - not a wise move. With Gareth Corke, Janine Duvitski, Michael Troughton and Anne Reid. 8.30 Law in Action. Guilty or not quilty? The people of Leeds tackle case studies from the magistrates' courts. 9.00 News; On Giant's Shoulders. Faraday - the Gentleman Chemist. Famous for his Friday evening lectures, Faraday

was a popular figure in fiterary and scientific society. Melvyn Bragg talks to Professor Sir John Meung Thomas in the Great Hall of the Royal Institution in London where Faraday gave many of his inspiring lectures. (R)
9.30 Analysis. 'Choice in Proportion'. Electoral reform will make more Broadcasting House. 10.00 The Archers.

Ideas and increasing choice, say supporters. But which ideas? And do the political parties really want it that way? Peter Keliner asks how electoral reform will affect white others and restrict white states. voter choice and party

behaviour.

10,00 News;
The Westminster Hour.
Andrew Rawnsley presents the political head-lines of the next week, live from Westminster. live from Westminster.

11.00 News; The Learning Curve. Libby Purves with the guide to the world of learning, with practical advice, features and teatures. Understood. 12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Story: Heritage Road. 12.48 Shipping

LOO As World Service. 5,30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 • 6.00 Farming Today.

Radio 4 LW (198kHz) 12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines; Shipping Forecast, 8.00 - 10.00 Open University. Radio 5 Live (693, 909kHz MW) 6.00 Brief Lives. 6.30 Breakfast with Andrew Nell. 9.00 SportsWeek. 10.00 Hayes on Sunday. 12.00 This Football Business. 12.30 The Media Show. 1.00 Sunday Sport. Football: commentary at 100 on the Division One game between Crystal Palace and Bamsley, followed by Newcastle v

Arsenal in the Premier

8.00 News Extra. 8.30 Brief Lives. 5 Live's obituary column.

9.00 Dallyn Worldwide.

9.30 Out This Week.

10.00 Late Night Currie.

1.00 Up All Night.

5.00 - 5.00 Morning Reports.

Classic FM (1000-1019MHz FM) 6.00 Sarah Lucas. 9.00 Classic Romance. 12.00 David Mellor. 2.00 Alan Marin. 4.00 Margaret Howard. 6.00
Countdown Top Ten.
7.00 Smooth Classics at
Seven. 9.00 Sunday Night at the Opera. 1100 Michael Mappin. 100 Concert. 3.00 -6.00 Mark Griffiths. Virgin Radio (1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 105.8MHz FM) 6.00 Richard Allen. 10.00 Danny Baker 100 Nick Abbot 4.00 Janey Lee Grace 6.45 London Caling with Janey Lee Grace/AM Pete and Geoff. 7.30 Pets and Geoff, 10.00 James Merritt, 1.00 Steve Power 4.30 -6.30 Richard Allen. World Service

(198kHz LW) (1980-12 LIV)
1.00 The World Today.
1.30 Mendian. 2.00 The
World Today. 2.30 Pick
of the World. 3.00 The
World Today. 3.20 Sports Roundup. 3.30 Global Business. 4.00 -7.08 The World Today. Talk Radio 6.00 Paul Ross. 10.00 Derek Draper and Peter Hitchens. 12.00 Russell Hitchens. 12.00 Russell Grant. 3.00 Nicky Homes Access AI Year. 6.00 Lets Talk Cornerly with Don McLeary and Sarjeev Conf. 8.00 Cheating Hearts with Jayne Irving. 10.00 James Whale. 1.00 -

Sky Premier 6.00 Femmes Fatales (43849). 7.00 All Dogs Go to Heaven II (1996). (23A09). 8.30 Legend of the Ruby Siver (1996). (7219). 10.30 formand Huck (1995). (60596). 12.30 Hoftwood Buzz (52480). 1.00 All Dogs Go to Heaven II (1996). (51654). 3.00 All Dogs Go to Heaven II (1996). (51654). 3.00 Formand Huck (1995). (88799). 7.00 House Arest (1996). (34867). 9.00 Film Night (1996). (5995). 11.30 The Nothew (1996). (5995). 11.30 The Spitting Grid (1996). (1907). 4.35 - 8.00 Femmes Fatales (8863994). Sky Movie Max.

(\$7877) 4.35 - 8.00 Femmes Fetales (\$983894).

Sky MovieMax 6.15 Two Much (\$990) (\$85898). 8.45 Loss of Feith (\$997) (\$70.4190). (\$0.00 Deep Femily Socrets (\$997) (\$10880). 12.00 Amorel (\$993) (\$2939, 2.00 Loss of Feith (\$997) (44867). 4.00 Two Moch (\$997) (\$4957). 6.00 Aien Nation: Udara Legacy (\$997) (\$4954). 9.30 The Reic (\$995) (\$27954). 11.20 Morkey Shines (\$986) (\$03022). 1.15 A Nghimare on Bhi Street 3: Dream Warnors (\$987) (\$28623). 2.55 Reik to Me (\$996) (\$987) (\$5371).

(1997) (65371).

Sky Cinerna
11.00 Buck Privates" (1941)
(2076770). 12.30 A Touch
of Larcery" (1959)
(969480). 2.00 Notoricus" (1946) (3182664).

1.45 Crampon" (1949)
(58818). 5.30 Howards
End (1991) (3898888). 2.00
Dead Calm (1989)
(53011954). 9.45 Wall
Street (1967) (8843204).
11.50 The Rambow (1989)
(7806888). 1.45 The
French Competion II (1975)
1199907. 3.40 The Glass
Menagenie" (1950) FilmFour 6.00 His Gri Friday* (1940) (14753334), 7.35 Seven

Striny Coine (\$55810).
8.00 Singles (\$822).
(\$5530138), 9.40 Crawl (\$29257). 10.00 Saves to the Underground (\$997).
(254804), 11.40 Bink (\$994), 6645916, 1.25 Black (\$8100w (\$98)).
(\$252902), 3.05 - 6.00 Joy Luck Club (\$93), (\$8617265).

(Sistrass).

Discovery Channel
4.00 Wings (Si0S312).
5.00 Flightine (4174683).
5.30 Coltrands Planes and
Automobiles (3008441).
6.00 Crocodie Hunter
(840008). 7.00 The Supernatural (FSITIS). 7.30 Creatures Fantastic (3025138).
8.00 Charlots of the Gods
- The Mysteries Continue The Mysteries Continue (57/7577), 9.00 Thanic (572041), 9.00 Thanic (5722949), 12.00 Discover Magazine (9765732), 1.00 Justice Files (1258230), 2.00 Close.

2.00 Close.

Sky One
6.00 Hour of Power
50139, 7.30 What a Mess
(2339, 7.30 Street Sharks
(40428, 8.00 Orson and
Oth/a (7/409), 8.20
Teerage Alien Fighters
(83480, 9.00 The Simpsons (54732), 9.30 Garfield
and Friends (79634), 10.00
Dream Team (83512), 11.00
Wresting (26348), 12.00
Kung Fu - the Legend Continues (85577), 1.00 New
Adventures of Superman
(29175), 2.00 Beverly Hits,
90210 (82890, 3.00 VP
447585), 4.00 Star Trek:
Deep Space Nine (12770). 175851 4.00 Star Trak:
Deep Space Nine (12770).
5.00 Star Trak: Voyager (5835), 6.00 The Simpsons (579), 7.00 King of the Hill (764), 7.30 3rd Rock from the Sun (2653), 8.00 Earth: First Confect (5054), 9.00 The X Fles (50420), 10.00 Mami Uncovered (5356), 11.00 South Park (20755), 11.30 Foreer Kright (5359), 12.30 Tales from the Crypt (5359), 12.00 Sighings (57459), 2.00 - 7.00 Long Pay (545559).

4.00 Cross.

Sky Sports 2
6.00 Unimised (2454954)
7.00 Asrobics (2995567)
7.30 Extreme Saling
(344652), 8.00 Socies Extra (195393), 11.00 Socies
Unimited (144472), 12.00
Football League Crystal
Palace v Barnsley
(7750393), 3.00 Basketbal
All-star Game (7496374),
5.00 Motor Sport
(5740654), 8.00 World
Sport (5740654), 8.00 World
Sport (5740654), 8.00 World
Sport (5703426), 6.30
Snow Show (9757830),
7.00 Golf (6557916), 11.00
Poverboating (659175),
12.00 Snow Show
(275130), 12.30 Rugby
(3889284), 2.00 Crose.
Sky Sports 3 (355254) 2.00 Close.

Sky Sports 3
11.30 Fizures (1798790).
12.00 Golf (68294080).
4.00 Max Power (1790041). 3.00 Theiltion (57668480). 6.00 Scottish Football Kirnermock v Rangers (8297729), 8.30 Moto-cross (83879138).
9.30 Rugby League (83276525). 11.00 Tristinon (50320480). 12.00 Close.

Eurospoort Eurosport
7.30 Snowbearing
(S890), 8.00 Blathion
(SR25), 9.30 Nortic Sking
(29427/38), 12.45 Alpine
Sking (S144428), 2.00
Blathion (37816), 3.30
Ternis (80190), 5.00
Blathion (37816), 2.00 Bathlon (90595), 7.00 Terms (88157), 8.20 Football (50885), 10.00 Sportscentre (583419).

12.30 Close.

UK Gold
7.00 The Pink Panther
(4906837) 730 Méddemarch (9078041), 8.30
Blake's Seven (9359935),
9.40 Dr Who Omribus
(85104409), 11.00 Dallas
Omribus (916619), 12.50
Filims Champions (1983)
(80068003), 3.00 The Bit
Omnibus (86397428), 5.20
Keeping Un Appearances
(1461888), 6.00
Ballykissangel (6084732),
7.05 The Good Life
(3673799), 7.45 To the
Manor Born (788004),
8.25 Only Fools and
Horses (6375848), 9.05
Black Adder the Third
(8084838), 9.45 Black
Adder the Third (2250732),
10.25 Auf Wiedersehen,
Pet (29259732), 11.20
Whataver Happened to the
Likely Lades? (2847864) Per (22259732) 11200 Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? (2847654) 1210 Ruby Wax Meets. Held Fless (6998791) 12.50 Pride and Prejudice (788826) 1.50 Minder (3283497) 3.00 - 7.00 Shopping (8558420).

10.55 Athletics (33300 11.30 Boxtng (37652). 12.30 Close.

Shopping (8558420).
Living
6.00 Tiny and Crew
(\$7312799). 6.20 Johnson
and Friends (83212770).
6.30 Phibert the Frog
(12300157). 6.40 Tiny Tales
(8440312). 6.45
Greedysaurus and the
Gang (8449683). 6.50
Polke Dot Shorts
(84737848). 7.00 Practical
Parenting (5496848). 7.05
Professor Bubble
(8020732). 7.30 Barney
and Priends (3366916).
7.55 Practical Parenting
(470684). 8.00 Callou
(1855770). 8.05 Bug Alert
(4366854). 8.36 Eabaloos
(1235461). 8.30 Callou (4366954). 8.25 Babaloos (123461). 8.30 Callou (1579577). 8.35 Tiny and Crew (5879683). 8.50 Practical Parenting (7100374). 8.05 Mrs Greeninumbs (583919). 8.40 Michael Cole (3538206). 10.30 Brookside Omnibus (1708554). 12.30 LA Law Omnibus (4581461). 3.00 Filters Cate Metropole* (837) (72127041). 4.45 Entertainment Now! (7063954). 8.00 Special Bables (7134426). 5.30 Living Issues (3824223). 6.00 Filters She Lad Two Lives (1995) (1595119). 8.00 Ally McBeal (1596848). 9.00 Jerry Springer Double Bill (1599835). 11.00 Michael Cole (7452916). 12.00 Close.

TNT 9.00 The Dirty Dozen (1967) (7497618), 11.45 The Last Challenge (1967) (8418799), 1.45 Sevege Messiah (1972) (23896284), 3.30 Village of Daughters* (1961) (82843739), 5.00 Close.

Paramount
Comedy Channel
7.00 Jenny (7206), 7.30
Grace under Fire (9995),
8.00 Ellen (8954), 8.30
Newsrado (5461), 9.00
Cheers (65986), 9.30
Cheers (18499), 10.00 Taxi
(93157), 11.00 Seinfeld
(37003), 11.30 The Larry
Sanders Show (45409), Srous, Trasu The Larry Sanders Show (45409). 12.00 Duckman (66807). 12.30 We Know Where You Live (49888). 1.00 Comady Store (29246). 1.30 Cub Class (66265). 2.00 Dr Katz (52823). 2.30 Tibs and Fibs (31130). 3.00 Nightstand (32710). 3.30 Abbott & Costello (55710). 4.00 Close.

Granada Plus 6.00 Jason King (6403428) 7.00 Bootsie (6403428, 7.00 Bootsie and Snudge (640577). 7.30 That's My Boy (6422312). 8.00 Watching (6322585). 8.30 Dharma and Greg (7772026). 9.00 Dempsey and Materpeace (5185225). 10.00 Behind the Velvet Roose, 8622312 (375322), 10.00 Behind the Velvet Ropos (8222312), 10.30 Hornes with Style (7877670), 11.00 The Return of Sherlock Holmes (8408732), 12.00 The Professionals (3225490), 1.00 Love and Memage (849848), 1.30 Please, Sri (9825634), 2.00 Point (8323041), 3.00 Bonanza (892304), 2.00 Porrot (892304), 3.00 Bonsaza (414457), 4.00 The High Chaparral (412364), 5.00 Classic Coronation Street Omnibus (788655), 7.30 Diagraph of Char Dharma and Greg (4829393). 8.00 Poirot (8155503). 9.00 The Professionals (4755747). 10.00 The Odd Couple (2722521). 10.30 Hogan's Heroes (2922729). 11.00 As Granade Men & Motors

FULL 7-DAY TV AND RADIO LISTINGS APPEAR IN THE INFORMATION'

mance of the sec-

performance of the sec-ond of those great crato-rios, The Kingdom.

Pamela Cobum (soprano), Christine Caims (mezzo),

0 CD C C

Sky Sports 1 6.00 Powerbods (13119). 6.30 Rugby League (55480). 8.00 Aerobics

RIVIEW

Regions

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SATURDAY RADIO

(976-998MHz FM) 7.00 Mark Goodier. 10.00 Chris Moyles. LOC Emma B. 3.00 Radio 1's R 'n' B Chart. 5.00

Judge Jules. 7.00 Danny
Judge Jules. 7.00 Danny
Rampling - Lovegroove Dance
Parage.00 Westwood - Radio 1
Rapprovin 12.00 Radio 1 Reggee Dancehall Nite. 2.00 The Essential Mix: Cox and Masters 4.00 - 6.30 Annie Nightingale. RADIO 2

RADIO 1

88-90.2MHz FM) 6.00 Mo Dutta. 8.05 Brian Matthew. 10.00 Steve Wrights Saturday Show. 1.00 The Smith Lectures. 1.30 Heated Rollers. 2.00 Alan Freeman, 3.30 Johnnie Walker, 5.30 Paul Gambaccini. 7.00 Do You Believe in Cher? See Pick of the Day. 8.00 Brian Kennedy in Concert 9.00 Suzi Quatro: Rockin with Suzi Q 10.00 Bob Harris. 1.00 Lynn Parsons. 4.00 - 7.00 Mo Dutta.

RADIO 3 (902-924MHz FM) 6.00 On Air. 9.00 CD Review, 12.00 Private Passions. 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime 2.00 Best of 3.

3.00 Young Artists' Forum. 4.00 The Secrets of Orchestration: 5.00 Jazz Record Requests. 6.00 Jazz Century. 6.30 Krommer. 6.55 Opera on 3. Strauss's gripping, one-act setting of the ancient Greek tragedy by Sophocles, to a libretto by Hugo von Hofmannsthal Elektra abused and rejected by her mother Clyternnestra, is in a state of shock after the murder of her father Agamemnon. She finds her brother Orestes, whom she had given up for dead, and together they plot revenge on their mother and her lover Aegisthus. With Gabriele Schnaut, soprano (Elektra), Deborah Voigt, soprano (Chrysothemis), Hanna Schwarz,

mezzo (Aegisthus), Monte

SKY PREMIER

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Peciason, baritone (Orestes)

Chorus and Orchestra of the New

York Metropolitan Opera/James

6.00 Apocalypse Watch (1995) (159621).

6.09 The Universal Story (1995) (76, 1967).

(2073534), 3.00 Ebran - Horror of the

20244). 8J00 Alice Doesn't Live Here

Anymore (1975) (83176), 11.00 Lost

SKY CINEMA

FILMFOUR

Deep (1966) (11379), **5.00** My Ghost Dog (1997) (38114), **7.00** Vegas Vacation (1997)

Highway (1997) (12231398), 145 Welcome

to the Dollhouse (1996) (937954), 2.45 The First Deadly Sin (1980) (657652), 4.40

6.15 Ebirah - Horror of the Deep (1966)

11.00 The Big Steel (1949) (2016398). 12.30 The Devil and Miss Jones (1941)

Siecos (1953) (4803069), 4.00 Nothing

but the Truth (1241) (7168485). 6.00 The

Desperate Hours (1955) (1520805). 8.00

12.00 The Hell with Heroes (1963) (90' 128), 1.45 Destination Moon (1950) (4566'80), 3.20 The Devil and Miss

Jones (1941) (50943683), 4.50 Close.

8.00 Forbidden Planet (1956) (985)4640

7.40 Flying over Mother (1465718), 8.00

Bullets over Broadway (1994) (56963466). 9.40 Mailman Matthew (2992485). 10.00

Get Shorty (1985) (4591718). 12.00 Belle de Jour (1967) (3742916). 1.40 Le Mapris

arfare (#15896). 7.00 Super Structures

(1963) (2947765), 3.25 - 6.00 Bitter

DISCOVERY CHANNEL 4.00 Flightpath (6138640), 5.00 A Century of Warters' (4193718), 6.00 A Century of

Moon (1992) (53798683).

Sea Wolves (1980) (1525350), 10,00

North Dalias Forty (1979) (9584263).

(1723263), 2.30 The City That Ne

SKY MOVIEMAX

PICK OF THE DAY

(7pm R2). The fact that the singer and actress (right) has miraculously avoided the demonisation that usually attends lengthy celebrity is a source of universal wonder. Tonight, she speaks.

hear Andrew Rissik's acclaimed trilogy, Troy (8.55pm R3), which

8.55 Troy. Three new plays by Andrew Rissik re-telling the story of events leading up to and following the fall of Troy, broadcast over this weekend on Radio 3.

1: King Priam and His Sons'.
With Paul Scofield as Hermes.
At the high of her second end

At the birth of her second son, Hekabe, Priam's wife, dies. And

hillside in order to satisfy the de-mands of the gods. Also starring

Toby Stephens, James Hayes,

Oliver Cotton and Ian Hogg, Di-rector Jaremy Mortimer. (R) See

Pick of the Day. 10.25 Haydn and Bartok. Caroline Paimer (piano). Bartok:

Tunes. Haydn: Sonatas in E flat, H XVI 38; in B flat, H XVI 4t. (R)

Three Rondos on Slovak Folk

11.00 Between the Ears. The third of six newly commis-sioned experiments in creative

radio. 'At the Window', Gimpses

of the Chicago planist Jimmy Yancey through one of his great-

est blues, the voices of his family

his city. See Pick of the Day.

100 - 6.00 Through the Night.

11.30 Jazz on 3.

(924-946MHz FM)

6.05 Sports Desk 6.10 Open Country.

9.00 Home Truths.

10.00 News; Loose Ends.

11.00 News; Food Programme.

6.57 Weather.

7.00 Today.

6.00 News Briefing.

RADIO 4

and friends, the magic of base-ball, and the sounds and music of

her child is cast out onto the

A KEY QUESTION for our times · tells the story of Helen, using is Do You Believe in Cher? the voices of, among others, Paul Scofield and Geraldine Somerville.

Between the Ears (11pm R3), a tribute to the Chicago blues pianist Jimmy Yancey, is a spellhinding jumble of sounds and voices - if only more There's another chance to radio programmes were this inventively constructed. DOMINIC CAVENDISH

> 11.30 From Our Own Correspondent. 12.00 News; Money Box. 12.30 The Sunday Formet 12.55 Weather. LOO News 115 Any Questions?.

2.00 News; Any Answers? 0870 010 0444. 2.30 Descendants. 3.00 News; The Saturday Play. The John Buchan Weekend. 4.00 News; Weekend Woman's

Hour. 5.00 Saturday PM. 5.30 Talking Pictures. 5.54 Shipping Forecast. 5.57 Weather, 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.15 Live from London. 7.00 News; Saturday Review.
7.45 Heavenly Thoughts.
And God Created Science.
Astrophysicist Jocelyn Bell Burnell talks about her spiritual beliefs and explains why she has no problem reconciling her faith in God and her scientific study of the heavens. (R) 8.00 News; The Archive Hour:

A United States of Europe?. In 1957, the six founder members of the European Economic Community signed the Treaty of Rome, laying the foundations for a united Europe. But Britain stayed away. Historian Christopher Andrew examines Britain's mercurial relationship with the union and wonders if it will ever take its place at the heart of a 'united states of Europe'.

9.00 News; The Classic Serial: Joseph Andrews, Henry Fielding's comic masterpiece, dramatised in four parts by Dominic Power, is a riotous journey through the morals and manners of high and low society. 3: Joseph finds him-self tempted by an old flame, while Fanny and Parson Adams fall foul of the law. With Norman Rodway, Matthew Dunster, and Gabrielle Drake. 10.00 News and Weather. 10.15 The Moral Maze.

Michael Buerk and regulars Janet Daley, David Starkey, Ian Harg-reaves and David Cook investigate the moral questions behind the week's news.

11.00 News; Airs of England.
Richard Coles explores the diverse sounds of Victorian English. music, Hardy on the Fiddle'. This week he talks to Dave Townsend, who has re-created West Gallery

music and tunes that Thomas Hardy refers to in his novels, 11.30 Fine Lines, 12.00 News. 12.25 Experimental Feature: The Way Home. (R) 12-30 The Late Story: Glacial 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News.

5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.50 - 6.00 Bells on Sunday. RADIO 4 LW (198kHz) 12.00 - 12.04 News Headines;

Shipping Forecast

(693, 909kHz MW) 6.00 Dirty Tackle. 6.30 Breakfast. 9.00 Chiles on Saturday. 1LOO Move It 11.30 You're Not Singing Any

12.00 Sportscall 1.00 Sport on 5. Football: coverage of all the day's action. with commentary on a top game in the Premiership. Fixtures include Chelsea v Liverpool and Man United v Southampton. 6.06 Six-O-Six. 8.00 Dallyn UK. 9.00 The Treatment. 10.00 Late Night Currie. 1.00 Up All Night.

5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports. CLASSIC FM (1000-1019MHz FM) 8.00 Sarah Lucas, 8.00 Count-down, 11.00 Masters of Their Art, 12.00 Mike Read, 3.00 Margaret Howard. 6.00 Classic FM at the Movies. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Opera Guide. 10.00 The Classic Quiz. 12.00 Midnight Music. 2.00 Evening Concert. 4.00 • 6.00 Sunday Start.

VIRGIN RADIO (1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 1058MHz FM) 6.00 Richard Allen, 9.00 Harriet Scott. 12.00 Classic Countdown with Russ Williams, 2.00 Rock and Roll Football, 5.30 Wheels of Steel, 10.00 Janey Lee Grace. 2.00 - 6.00 Steve Power. **WORLD SERVICE RADIO**

(198kHz LW) 100 Newsdesk. 130 Best on Record. 2.00 The World Today. 2.30 Agenda. 3.00 The World Today. 3.15 Sports Roundup. 3.30 World Business Review 3.45 Letter from America, 4.00 The World Today. 4.30 Omnibus. 5.00 The World Today. 5.30 -6.00 Women Who Dared to Speak

TALK RADIO 6.00 OK to Talk, 8.00 Danny Baker's Morning Edition, 12.00 it's Round and White - with Tom Watt. 2.00 The SportZone. 5.05 505 with Gary Newborn and Tom Watt. 7.30 Nancy Roberts. 10.00 Dave Barrett's Phone In. 2.00 - 6.00 Mike Dickin.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS JON SPEELMAN

TODAY AND on Monday, two reviews of books by former World Correspondence champions, both published by Gambit but in all other respects as different as you could

imagine. Readers may have noticed that I seldom criticise books. The explanation is simple: I usually don't bother with ones I don't like But The System by Hans Berliner (Gambit £14.99) has made such an impression that I must make an exception.

I first delved into this on a train on the way to Gatwick Airport and it so incensed me (I admit I was also tired) that I went three stops too far and nearly missed my plane. Later, I showed it round to my Bundesliga team and it attracted comments and ridicule of great ferocity. The reason for this is its extra-

ordinarily arrogant, indeed almost Messianically bombastic tone. Berliner, in his time, was an unprecedeutedly successful champion with a career record of 94 wins, 10 draws and just one loss. He also created a fine computer program, Hitech. But his stated belief in the foreword that chess will be solved by 2030, and his attempts to refute major openings such as the Grunfeld and Queen's Gambit Declined, are utterly at variance with the modern, flexible understanding of chess. One reason for this is that much of the book was written 20 or 30 years ago, and his purely analytical approach - though understandable in a correspondence and computer man - makes almost no concessions to positional understanding.

I'll start with his assertion that "White's correct first move is 1 d4 because it controls three central squares while no other move controls more than two". Leaving aside arithmetical considerations - how does he define a central square to get exactly three? - this is extraordinary special pleading. The move, after all, also weakens e4 and as a result he spends much of the rest of the book trying to make i3 work in sundry positions.

Next there's the claim that after 1 d4 Nf6, 2 c4 is better than 2 Nf3. Of course, if White's position is sufficiently good then it may be. But, a priori, you don't, for example, know whether the weakening of e4 and the early exposure of the b4-e1 diagonal exploited by the Nimzo-Indian - 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Bb4 is a serious matter (And Berliner, admittedly in old notes - game 12 confessed that he didn't know how

to meet this.) Some of Berliner's specific analysis, especially against the Grunfeld, is extremely interesting. But he simply doesn't consider a sufficiently broad range of lines to convince the modern eye of his very strong assertions - for example, after 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 cxd5 Nxd5 5 e4 Nxc3 6 bxc3 Bg7 7 Bc4 c5 8 Ne2 0-0 9 Be3 Nc6 10 Rc1 cxd4 11 cxd4 Qa5+ 12 Kfl Ilya Gurevich's Qa3!, which he doesn't mention, is now the main line.

Although I find parts of this book disturbingly compelling, I'm happily far from convinced that the chess Messiah has come.

Game all; dealer West

VAQ764

Morth

+ none

BRIDGE ALAN HIRON

IT WAS the last rubber of the evening - which may explain the wild bidding on this deal. I report the auction as it happened but invite you to find the extremely odd safety play, missed by declarer that would have allowed them all to go home a lot earlier.

West opened Four Spades and North chose to bid Four No-trumps for take-out. East bid Five Diamonds, although I cannot think why, and South tried Five Hearts. At least five minutes ticked by while the next three players considered their problems and eventually passed.

West led the two of spades against Five Hearts and, on inspecting dummy, declarer asked You could not see your way to give me Six?" Perhaps savouring his own wit, he failed to notice the significance of the lead, Snorting happily to himself, he discarded a with the jack of hearts and, as he had not failed to attach some meaning to the lead, played back a club for his partner to ruff. Now another spade promoted the setting trick for East's king of trumps. At this point dummy replied to his

partner's earlier question with

"No, it seemed cheaper to pass!"

OAJ4 **#**AJ1075 West East **◆**KJ987632**◆**none 79 ♥KJ OKQ10987 ♦6532 # none **498643** South **♦**A Q 10 5 4 V108532 one one

And the rubber went on, and on, and on...

₽KQ2

Leaving aside the bidding and the by-play, what was the unusual safety play that South had missed? diamond from dummy. East ruffed strongly suggested a void in clubs and it was not at all unlikely that East was void in spades. The solution, therefore, is to ruff the opening lead with dummy's ace! Then declarer simply leads a low trump from the table and, no matter how the adverse trumps are divided, now has a guaranteed 11 tricks, los-

ing (at most) two heart tricks.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

8.30 Northern Lights (1997) (79244). 10.00 Turbo: a Power Rangers Movie (1997) (37589089) 11.45 Rainbow (1996) (196783973) 1.30 Apocalypse Watch (1995) (261805) 4.00 Northern Lights SINCE HER starring role in school reunion. All the while, (1997) (883S), 5.30 Turbo: a Power Rangera Movie (1997) (44756), 7.30 p.ins-view (6422), 8.00-Liar Liar (1997) (83447). most sought-after actresses in : The conflicts in the former. (761244). See Pick of the Day. TL50 Postcards from the Edge (1990) (439553). 1.35 Exit in Red (1996) (676374), 3.20 -7.00 Movie Magic (40008), 7.30 Action Heroes (5226466), 8.15 UK Top Ten (4405224). 9.00 Vegas Vacation (1997) (38337). **1L00** My (210st Dog (1897) (72331). **1.00** Movie Magic (48379). **1.30** Action Heroes (58888). **2.35** UK Top Ten

the first time in 10 years for a

82602). 9.00 Shoot to Thrill (6760869).

(6764485), 8.00 Natural Disasters

(4103195), **8.30** Natural Disasters

SKY ONE

10.00 Forensic Detectives (6763756), 1L00 A Century of Warfare (9238992).

12.00 A Century of Wartere (6769654) 1.00 Weapons (7102461), 2.00 Close.

7.00 What a Mess (48640), 7.30 Street

Strants (34447), 8.00 The Adventures of Sinbad (35396), 9.00 The Simpsons

466211 10.00 Chris Evens (23331), 11.00

America's Dumbest Criminals (3379). 3.00

Space Nine (77027), 5.00 Star Trek: Voyager (2896), 6.00 Xena: Warnior Princess (65756), 7.00 VP (79973), 8.00

JAG (88621). **9.00 Fil**ms Sky One Special Feature: The Abyss (1989) (375447). **11.30** Beet the Crusher (58183).

12.30 Showbiz Weekly (19022), 1.00 The Big Easy (28596), 2.00 Fire (58190).

6.00 Hold the Back Page (31447), 7.00 Sky Sports Centre (69379), 8.00

(80175), 9.00 Hold the Back Pags (87114), 10.00 World Tenpin Bowling Mesters (85331), 11.00 Max Power (85195), 12.00

Soccer Saturday (5762621), 5.30 Football Scrapbook (47737), 7.00 Baskethall -

Aerobics (81805). 8-30 Racing New

3.00 - 6.00 Long Play (5299867).

SKY SPORTS 1

Guitty! (58992), 4.00 Star Trek: Deep

(19089). 9.30 Gartield and Friends

Good Will Hunting, Minnie he is being trailed by a rival Driver has become one of our - killer, Mr Grocer (Dan'Aykroyd).

Hollywood. She shows why in Yugoslavia began after the death Grosse Pointe Blank (10pm of General Tito. Biography Sky Premier), an engagingly (9pm History Channel) tonight off-beat, black comedy from examines the life of the man George Armitage. She plays a born Josip Broz, who led woman being wooed by her the National Liberation Army former childhood sweetheart, against the Germans in 1941. a professional assassin (John and became Prime Minister of Cusack, right) back in town for Yugoslavia in 1946.

JAMES RAMPTON



Dairyles Dunkers All-star Game (77176). 9.00 Setunday Fight Night (48755), 11.00 World Sport Special (73486), 11.30 Rug-by Union Update (37992), 1.00 Spanish Footbal (18515), 3.00 Fight Night (25374). 5.00 - 6.00 Motocross (67790).

SKY SPORTS 2 6.00 Watersports World (2487282), 7.00 Aerobics (8691355), 7.30 Pacing News (9148440), **8.00** Soccer (293008), **12.00** Motocross (3407911). **1.00** Saling (9041896), **1.30** Powerboats (3494447). 2,00 Rugby Union: Tetley's Bitter Cup (5921398), 4,30 Motor Sport (5902285) Wresting (4395). 12.00 Wresting (36244). 1.00 Superman (45992). 2.00 America's Dumbest Criminals (7089). 2.30 7.00 Golf (5580244), 11.00 Inside the Serior PGA Tour (4441331), 11.30 Basketbell Dairylea Dunkers All-star Game (7498716). 1.30 Pugby League (4574041), 3.00 World Motor Sport (2423008), 5.30 -6.00 Extreme Saling (7494138).

SKY SPORTS 3 12.00 Golf (29494468), 4.00 Extreme Saling (67443718), 4.30 Watersports World (75151669), 5.310 World Polio 1998 (58813485), 6.310 Rugby Union Update Fightmond vs Leicester (82462756), 8.00 Spanish Football (82668466), 19.00 Rug-by League (68168640), 11.30 Powerboats 573928221, 12,00 Close.

EUROSPORT 2.30 YOZ Mag - Youth Oriy Zone (56821). 8.30 Bathlon (5884). 9.30 Norde Sking (42447). 12.00 Alpine Sking (79060). 12.30 Alpine Sking (20973). 1.30 Norde Sking (36843). 2.00 Bathlon (1043060).

2.45 Nordic Skiing (1032447), 4.00 Eathlon (1550060), 4,45 Alpine Sking (570027), 5,45 Tennis (2048080), 7,00 Terris (82244), 9.00 Boxing (1973). 10.00 Stock Cars (14080), 11.00 Bowling (91756), 12.00 Darts (93916), 1.00 Closs. UK GOLD

7.00 Angels (922)502). 7.30 Neichbours Omnibus (7/769621), 9.25 Dalles Omnibus (3/382060), 12.40 EastEnders Omnibus (17937350), 3LOO The Bal Omnibus (96311008), \$.25 Film: King Kong (1975) (113333466), 8,00 What a Carry Oni (5305089), \$4.35 Henry Enfield and Churns (5692843), \$4.15 The Thin Blue Line (8006350), 9.55 Red Dwarf V (2289344). 10.35 Monty Python's Flying Circus (2582640). 11.15 Live at Jongieurs (782195). 11.50 Films Scarlace (1983) (78530027). 3.00 - 7.00 Shopping with Screenshop (5903848).

LIVING 6.00 Tiny and Crew (37345027), 8.20 Johnson and Friends (\$3252398), 6.30 Philbert the Frog (\$2353485), 6.40 Tiny Tales (\$4779640), 6.45 Greedysaurus and the Gang (84772911). 6.50 Polika Dot Shorts (84760176). 7.00 Practical Parenting (5429176), 7.05 10 plus 2 (5250379) 7.20 Bedfirne Stories (5432640), 7.25 Babaloos (5431911). 7.30 Callou (401640), 7.35 Bug Alert (7207973), 7.55 Practicel Parenting (435392), 8.00 Police Dot Shorts (1879350), 8.40 Tiny and Crew '98 (1270534), 8.45 Happy Birthday

(5802911). 8.50 Practical Parenting (7133602) 9.05 Mrs Greenthumbs (8555553) 9.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (5181244), 10.05 Ready, Steady, Cook 3435869), 10.40 Maury Povich (\$573000), 10.40 Meany Points (\$572821), 11.30 The Roseanne Show-Highights (\$583719), 12.00 Entertainment Nowl (\$577089), 12.30 LA Lew Omnibus (4521089), 3.00 Filling A Tree Grows in Brooklyn (1945) (5514224), 5.30 Animal Rescue (3854553). 6.00 Filting Dalsy Kenyon (1947) (1528447), 8,000 Aliv McBeel (1529176), 9.00 Jerry Springer (7485244), 12.00 Closs. THE

(1874805), 8.25 Babaloos (1275089), 8.30

Calliou (8546805), 8.35 Tiny and Crew

8.00 TNT Interview with Michael Caine (17937195). 9.30 Get Carter (1971) (92316843). 11.45 Hit Man (1972) (75941060), 1.30 The Fearless Vampire Ollers (1967) (21669935). 3.15 The Spy In the Green Hat (1966) (42319596). 5,00

PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL

7.00 Jermy (1447), 7.30 Grace under Fire (7114), B.00 Elen (9945), 8.30 Newsradio 9602), 9.00 Drop the Dead Donkey (99263). 9.30 Whose Line is it Anyway? (20282), 10,000 Frasier (83283), 10,30 Cheers (92911). 11.00 Seinfeld (73468). 11.30 The Larry Sanders Show (4678), 12.00 Duckman (49995), 12.30 We Know Where You Live (96954). 1.00 Cornedy Store (69022), 1.30 Oldo Class (87111), 2.00 Dr Katz (76461), 2.30 Tibs and Fibe (95596). 3.00 Nightstand (89886). 3.30 Abbott & Costalio (86848).

GRANADA PLUS 6.00 Jason King (6436756), 7.00 Bootsie and Snudge (6443605), 7.30 That's My Boy (6455640), 8.00 Watching (2027375), 8.30 No Strings (3477814), 9.00 Mission. Impossible (518553), 10.00 Persuaders (3451824). 11.00 Man in a Suitcase (8431080), **12.00** Fiddlers Three (9877850), **12.30** Emmerdale (8724027). 3.00 Bonanza (417/485). 4.00 The High Chaparnel (456992). 5.00 Hawaii Five-O (5337737). 8.00 Persuaders (3520242). 7.00 Mission: Impossible (7435293), 8.00 The Return of Sherlock Holmes (4850391). \$.00 An Audience with Peter Listinov (\$479'85). 10.00 An Audience with Elly Cornoty (1505224), **11.00** Granada Men & Motors (7071621), **2.00** Close.

CONCISE CROSSWORD

No.3857 Saturday 27 February



REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC1 N IRELAND As 88C1 England except 4.45 Fin. 2 core (752911) 5.00 Northern Irelan J Results (8256447) 5.20 Final Score (6523737). 6.00 New wsline (537911). BBC1 SCOTLAND As BBC1 England except: 3.55
Augly League (3495379). 4.40 Afternoon
Sportscene (25728027). 5.25 Fresh Prince
of Bel Air (853756). 6.00 Reporting
Scotland (53791). 10.35 Sportscene Match of the Day (8128282). BBC1 WALES As BBC1 England except: 4.45 Final Score (1932973). 4.55 Wales on Saturday (9785621). 6.00 Wales Today

ANGLIA ANGLIA
As LWT except: 12.30 Stepping the
World (26843). 1.05 Angla News and
Weather (54203094). 2.20 Champions of
the Fluture (62673829). 2.50 Going Wild
(380640). 2.55 Airwolf (3614331). 3.50
3000ker Liverpool Victoria Charity
Challenge (770014). 5.05 Angla News
and 9.001 (8259534). 8.40 News;
America (1664003). 2.45 World
Sill (5599802). 3.10 CD UK (6517751).

4.05 Sean Connery - Close-Up (5414393). **4.50** Soundtrax (85755206). **5.05** ITV Nightscreen (7311409). CENTRAL

CENTRAL
As LWT except: 12.30 Premiere
(2843). 1.05 Central News and Weather
(54203094). 2.20 Snooker Liverpoot
Victoria Charity Challenge (7731555).
2.50 TimeCop (7700114). 5.05 Central
News, Weather and Goals Extra
(2259534). 8.40 News, National Lottery
Update; Weather (\$19331). 3.55. Jobfinder
(7612588). 5.00 Spotlight Asia (1634).
LITTY WALLES

(7812698). 5.00 Spotlight Asia (11374).

HTV WALES

As LWT except: 12.30 Movies,
Garnes and Videos (28843). 1.05 HTV
News (54213094). 2.20 Pirate TV
(62573829). 2.50 Werner Brothers
Cartoon (7851840). 3.00 seaCuest DSV
(6649379). 3.80 Snooker Liverpool
Victoria Charity Challange (770014). 5.05
HTV Wales News and Sport (6259534).
2.15 Box Office America (165403). 2.40
World Footbal (5599802). 3.10 CD UK
(6517751). 4.05 Sean Connery - Close-Up
(544995). 4.50 Soundtrax (65755206).
5.05 ITV Nightscreen (731409).

HTV WEST HTV WEST As HTV Wales except: 12.30 Sportsweek (26343). 1.00 News; Weather

(53853553). 2.20 Movies, Games and Videos (62673824). 2.50 Pirate TV (5729486). 2.20 Dinosaurs (413263). 5.05 HTV West News and Sport (8259534). 8.40 News Headines; National Weather (919331). MERIDIAN

MERIDIAN

As LWT succept: 12.30 Pier Pressura
(28343): 1,05 Meridian News and
Weather (542)3034): 2,20 Champtons of
the Future (82839244): 2,45 Carbon
(795)(027): 2,55 Film: Columbo: Butterfly
in Shades of Grey, Peter Fath thinks radio
talk show host William Shather is shooting
him a test line. Sizy title, et? With Molly
Hagan, Jack Laufer, Yorgo Constantine.
(8517)(896): 5,05 Meridian News and
Weather (8259634): 8,40 News; Weather
(919331): 2,15 Box Office America
(1854003): 2,40 World Footbell (1584003) 2.40 World Footbell (559802) 3.40 CD UK (5517751) 4.05 Sean Cornery - Close-Up (5414393) 4.50 Soundrax (65755206), 5.05 (TV Nghtsoreen (7311409). WESTCOUNTRY As LWT excepts 12.30 Movies, Games and Videos (26843), 1.05 Westcountry News (54203094), 2.20 Film: Girls at Sea. Safor Royald Shiner Is

at panic stations when three young lactes

are stranded aboard his battleship after an el-right party. Nudge-nudge Navy larks win Guy Polis, Michael Hordem, Anne Kimbell, Fabia Drake. (7751553).
3-50 eseculativest DSV (770014). 5-05 Westcountry News (1442843). 8-40 TIN News; Weekend Visather (919331). 2-55 Box Office America (1684003). 2-40 World Pootbell (559802). 3-50 CO UK (6517751). 4-05 Sean Cornery - Close-Up (544393). 4-50 Soundfrex (85755206). 8-05 TIV Nightscreen (7311405). are stranded aboard his battleship after YORKSHIRE

As LHT except 12.30 Dinosaus 26843), 1.05 Calender News and Weather (542/3094), 5.05 Calender News and Weather (5845/89), 5.10 Goals TYNE TEES

As Yorkshire except: 1.05 North East News and Weather (54203094), 5.05 North East News and Weather (5845089). 5.40 Feb Time (2975911).

S4C
As Channel 4 except: 1.55 Happy
Days (52382350). 2.00 Happy Days
(52382350). 2.00 Happy Days
(52382350). 5.05 Newyddion (76308331).
5.10 Y Chib Rygbi (52344344). 7.45
Newyddion (98723282). 8.00 Camital Y

Coff (\$1963517), 9.000 Film: Patagonia.
Drama portraying life in Patagonia's Welsh community. (4015973), 10.300 Film:
Soylent Green. New York City, early in the 21st century. It's a mass – an overcrowded ghetto with people corambling over each other to get at the food trucks. The privileged lew watch from their ivory towers. Disgruntled cop Charlton Heston listens to tales of the good old days from room-mate Edward C. Robinson. A vivid soi-if morality play with a shock ending that leaves a nasty taste in the mouth. (58182379, 12.215 John Peels Sounds of the Suburts (32466379, 12.25 John Peels Sounds of the Suburts (32466379, 12.26 Just Say No. This irreverent look at the world of No. This interest took at the world of clinema focuses on the world of drug culture. (26897888). 1.20 Pop-Up Video (20786732). 1.45 Alice in Acidland (20786732). 1.45 Alice in Acidland. (504519). 2.45 Film: Alice in Acidland. 1960s period piece which delivers a cautionary tale about a naive college girl who falls in with a hippy crowd, experimenting with mind-expanding drugs and free love. As the drops acid for the first time, the film switches from black and white to colour and some sturning visuals. (91765732). 3.40 The Trip (29101770). 3.40 The Clangers (81946857). 3.50 His Street Stues (10085312, 4.40 Close.

DOWN

Cereal crop (3) Pigs (5) Faithfulness (8) Time gone by (4) Permanently binding (12)

10 Spies (6) 12 Fervent (6) 14 Civilian in time of war (3-9)

19 Trusty (8)

18 Source of water (4) 20 Throw out (5) 21 Before (3)

Headlamp housing (7) 12 Used for growing crops

(6) 13 Girl's name (7) 15 Overweight (5)

Fence (7)

XXXX (6)

Correct (5)

Confine (7)

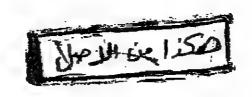
Authority (3-2)

Artist's support (5)

16 Deserve (5) 17 Conscious (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Reign, 4 Doff (Rained off), 8 Martini, 9 Viola, 10 Gibe, 11 Children, 12 Mother-of-pearl, 15 Immature, 17 Form, 20 Estra, 21 Obvious, 22 Whey, 23 Dodgy, DOWN: 1 Rarebit, 2 Iris, 3 Neighbourhood, 4 Develop, 5 Flour, 6 Smug, 7 Carnal, 12 Maiden, 13 Estuary, 14 Apology, 16 Match, 18 Moss. 19 Ovid.



LEVISION



JASPERREES

WOULDN'T mind having hil Hammond as your GR resents Trust Me, I'm a TELEVISION REVIEW

wobably would trust him.
like Harry Hill, he's one of tose doctors who opts to peclalise not in the heart or so brain or the liver, but in se funny bone. He has an wful haircut, a reliable sign fa sense of humour in a sedic. As a student, he was o doubt a major player in rag eek, and in my experience, sey always turn into the octors with the best bedside sanger. Trust me, my rother's a doctor.

In tune with Hammond's intune with Hammond's local story about the show's solve of topics. Last week, se programme tested two Ukloric suspicions for you (it is), and that amersing yourself in cold atter is good for you (it is), and that once killed a bad cold stone sad by drinking warm milk in hich seven cloves of garlic ad been bolied for 20 minutes. he Italian forester who

The Italian forester who recommended the recipo didn't mention anything about garlic's other function.

reported here, as a low-rent herbal Ylagra. You could have done with some advice on how much you have to consume to enhance durability – enough, I imagine, to ensure that no one would touch your bargepole with a bargepole. The tone of the show is light-hearted, which is why Friday evening seems the right place in the schedule for it. It's basically Eurotrush with a stelluscope. This week, Harmond introduced an item about phobias with a python wrapped round his neck. For the report on pelvic floor exercises he was pumping fron. Between each flur there are little inserts featuring bizarre health tips, such as "sniffing chocolates boosts your hearing", or "farting lieps prevent diabetes".

I made that one up, and I such too. Worst Pels (ITV). There were more pythons on display here. One of them slithered into his owner's loo in a top-floor flat and snaked down into the bathroom of a firm of to a the ground floor.

ython ate his
ython ate his
log. It's clear that the
ne should have been
ttain's Worst Pet
How stupid do
to be to put a large
a room with another
ed animal? The
een nearly crushed
to death. "I think he
trying to give me a
the said.

nade that one up, and I nade that one up, and I nader whether they do, too. But the show is capable wiping the smirk off its face. nd donned his Me expression to see that six years ago who broke the private Eye about the tallty rate for heart tall rate fo Apparently, the average annual expenditure on a dog is £4,000. Most of these owners would have used the money more wisely on a shrink, especially the woman who spends a further £3,000 a time getting her dogs stuffed. "I can assure you that I am not eccentric," she said, as

SCENE BY SCENE WITH JONATHAN DEMME (11.20pm BBC2, right) Mark Cousins conducts another of his projector-side chats – this time with that maverick talent of modern American chema, Jonathan Demme. The man himself is demonstrably well-balanced for a movie genius, talking Cousins through a career that began as a publicist for Roger Corman's New World Pictures. Corman, apparently, just told Denme that if he could write a press release he could probably write a movie, before handing him a motorcycle gang exploitation.

John Peel (right) - in a series of woolly hats that make him book a hit like Jack Nicholson in One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest - sets off on a tour of Britain's lown and suburbs to by to discover what it is about them that has made them the creative hub of a world-beating pop music industry. His first stop is the post-industrial landscape of Lanarkshire to the south of Glasgow, where he meets Sean Dixon, once of the Soup Dragons tand now of High Fidelity, the Delgados of Ravenscraig and, in East Kilbride, the BMX Bandits. Never

i Ch

NHS trust system succurages inospitals to do operations locally other hospitals continue to perform the kasai despite appalling results. A bospital in Nottingham only stopped doing the kasal when they reviewed their records and discovered that 19 out of 20 times, the patient had died. The Department of Health refused an interview but issued a statement snying that they "acknowledged that it has been clear since 1985 that the best results are achieved at the test traits."

Z CO 3

9.05 City Centrel. The second series of this northern plad drama begins tonight. Set in a thinly-disguissed Manchester, the cast includes former EastEnders heart-throb Paul Nicholls. Tonight's opener thyolyes the kniling of a dergyman (S) (T) (437718). Hollday Reps. Perhaps budyed up by the success of their holiday reps drama Sunbum - which finished its first series last week - the BBC has repackaged episodes of this recent docu-soap (S) (T) (891802).

10.35 Match of the Day. Desmand Lynam introduces all the goals and action from the Premiership, with chief highlights coming from Liverpools visit to Chelsea this afternoon (S) (T) (8128282). 20 News; Weather (1) (850553). The 41st Annual Grammy Awards. Jamie Theakston introduces highlights from Los Angeles of the prestigious music awards (S) (89/282).

1:15 Top of the Pops (S) (T) (95816).

Gurney Jr 1958 US). Merry cheaps exploiter about a disfigured sexpot from the year 5000 who is transported back to the year 1958 (Then Westher) (3385751). To 3am.

PROFILE OF THE DAY

DOCUMENTA

RY OF THE DAY

BBC

7.00 The Munsters (T) (6605447), 7.26 News; Westher (3798911).

7.30 Children's BBC: Fireman Sam (R) (6126973). 7.40 Little Monsters (S) (6069737). 7.50 The incredible Hulk (R) (T) (2120927). 8.45 Hero Turtles – the Next Mutation (S) (2692718). 8.35 The Flintstones (R) (S) (9881283). 9.00 Live and Kicking (S) (63892718).

12:10 News; Weather (T) (8047331).

12.15 Grandstand (S) (8046802), 12.20 Football Focus (5348114), 1.10 Racing from Haydock Park (94798379), 1.25 Althistics (94779802), 1.40 Racing from Haydock Park (47468027), 1.65 Boxing (47449350), 2.10 Racing from Haydock Park (3681108), 2.25 Around the Grounds (52007008), 2.35 Racing from Haydock Park (4683766), 2.65 Rugby League: Leeds vs St Helene, Live coverage of the Challengs Cup (fith-round its from Headingley (kick-off at 3pm) (2984466), 3.45 Football Half-Times (2533282), 3.55 Rugby League (2838602), 4.45 Final Score (4912824).

5.50 News; Weather (T) (457176).

5.00 Regional News and Weather (53791). **Get Your Act Together.** With London band Monty and Preston's Gery Des Etages (S) (T) (734737).

6.35 Bly Break. Jim Davidson and star potters Andy Hicks, Dennis Taylor and Willia Thoms help out more contestants (S) (T) (850892).

Noel's House Party (5) (273350)

7.50 The National Lottery - We've Got Your Number. The latest attempt to make the National Lottery draw work as a TV show. Brian Conley hosts it

ilt way to visit an succity received to the they crash on n Holby A&E? Will they crash on - or will the old biddy have room toor when they arrive? (S) s week involves a visit an elderly relative. 1857 Will they crash on

9.05 [3][M] The Great Waldo Pepper (George Roy Hill 1973 US). The second of today's two serial yarms, and the second of two BSC2 tilms today to star Robert Redford. This is *Butch Cassidy director* George Roy Hills shirty, superficial Boys' Own advanture with Redford as the Great War ace who's taken to stunt-flying in the Michwest of the 1920s. Given to bragging about his doglights with German air ace So Svenson, his baiff is called when the said Teuton turns up in Los Angelee (7) (556228027).

10.50 If I Ruled the World. Vote, vote, vote for John Thomson and Linda Smith (S) (T) (637331).

11.20 IBIOURE Scene by Scene with Jonethen
Demme, The Silence of the Lembs director review
carser with Mark Coustns, See Profile of the Day, to 12.10 1630163 Melvin and Howard (Jonathan Damine 1980 US). Demme's lyrical comedy drama about an ordinary Joe who gives billibraire Howard Hughes a lift and ends up interting millions. See Film of the Day, and ends up interting millions. See Film of the Day, 10 (573761). To 3am.

BBC2

11.85 IIIM The Ternished Angele (Douglas Sirk: US). The first of two films today on BBC2 about pit eviators (how do they think up these themes?) star Rock Hudson as a New Orleans reporter who gets throlosed with an all chous. Based on William Faulu 1930s drams, Pylon (T) (9705669).

6.10 Scrutiny. Reports on the inter Parliamentary Union, a club for MPs and paers which enables its members to meet their counterparts (S) (152008).

8.15 The Cold Way: China 1949-72. In 1949, Meo tung led his People's Liberation Army to victory ow American-backed Nationalists; 1972 was the year of President Nixon's historic trip to Belling. In between what the Chinese call "interesting times", including Cultural Revolution, mass starvation and the creation. Tan-ear the on car 8.55

1.05 The Big Fight Live. Liverpudian Colin Dunne takes on South Africa's Phillip Holiday for the world light-wellerweight crown. Or for one of them, at least. Subsequent programmes may run late (1) (2:15379).

Snocker: Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge (3830886), 1.35 The Jerry Springer Show (1244786), 2.45 Beywatch Nighls (S) (3646003), 3.05 Box Office America (F) (80859807), 3.30 World Footbell (40781515), 3.56 CD UK (S) (4338886), 4.50 ITV Nightscreen (5943596), 5.30 News (2190). To Sam.

Open University Fighting for Space (\$100 7.05 Traps -- and How to Gat Out of Them (86950 7.30 Music to the Ear (10909, 8.00 Weskend 24 (88802), 9.00 Personal Passions (4389089), 9.35 (88802), 9.402811, 10.35 Cyber Art (3134803), 11.35 See Haarl (9805398), 11.25 Food and Drink (8008 888 Haarl (9805398), 11.25 Food and Drink (8008 888 Haarl (9805398), 11.25

1.25 IIIII Barefoot in the Park (Gens Sake 1987 US). Hamiless and now almost nostalgic Neil Simon comedy about middle-class newlyweds Robert Regiond and Jane Fonds making a go of it in the bohemish squafor of Greenwich Village (18251973).

3.05 One Man and His Dog (3898398), 3.35 Space 1998 (R) (2956008), 4.25 International Terms (S) (4589486).
5.29 TOTP 2. The Stones, Nik Kershaw, Bon Jovi and Shakiri Stevens retrieved from the archives (9939621).

6.50 Correspondent. Andrew Harding is in Moscow, from where he examines the Russian quest for new loans to replace the old certainties. And in San El Salvador, Tom Gibb goes underground with street gangs (S) (T) (836282).

What the Papers Say Awards 1998, Citys Anderson presents the 42nd annual journalism aw bash from the Savoy Hotel in London (S) (4007/8). ards

735

day on 68C2 about ploneer up these themes!) stars eans reporter who gets Based on William Feuthner's reson 1957

8.10 Family Fortunes. The Dadds family from North Dayon play the Medley family from Tamworth (S) (T)

8.40 ITN News) Weather; Lottery Result (7) (819331).

Site, The Caine Mulhy, The Hunt for Red October and Safe, The Caine Mulhy, The Hunt for Red October and several other films one could mention are thrown into the pot of this post-Cold War thriller in which renegade ultra-nationalists in the former USSR seize a Russian nuclear-missite base and threaten to nuke the USA. The main conflict, however, is the face-off between grizzled Cold War veteran submerine commender Gene Hackman and his subordinate, Denzel Washington, who

LWT ALI

6.00 QMTV (87/9850).

11.30 CD UK (5) (79089), 12.30 Wannabe (5) (7) (26843), 1.00 ITN News; Weather (7) (53853553), 1.05 London Weekend Today (1) (54203084), 110 On the Ball (1) (9419350), 1.48 NBA 99 (1) (6173756).

3.50 Early Edition (S) (7700114). 4.45 ITN News; Sports Results; Weather (T) (7138331). 5.05 London Weekend Torught (T) (8259534). 5.20 Certoon Time (8261379). 5.40 The New Addams Family. TV spin-off from the recent movies rather than a remake of the old TV series, appearantly (343911).

6.05 Brookside Omnibus. All the week's Mersey grief in full, with Emily feeling neglected, Hyan determined to prove Luke's innocence and Jackle feeling downtrodden (R) (S) (T) (5725331).

640 Don't Try This at Home! A man attempting to burges-jump under a paragilder; a novel way of pushing a Mercedes across the studio floor, and a challenge tryolving a quad bite, two water skiers and a kangaroo. Devina McCall has the details (S) (T) (161621).

7.10 Blind Date. How did Stacey and Sare fare on their circus date, and what about Glynn and Becky in Israel? (S) (T) (B33756).

10.40 Love Street. More porn from Channel 5 (6662379).

11.15 Queer as Folk (552447).

11.20 [NIII] John Peel's Sounds of the Suburbs.

Peel visits the places that have fuelled our pop heritage.

See Documentary of the Day, below (716716).

12.35 Chriffer about

[3][1] Executive Action (David Miller 1973 US). This thriller about John F Kennedy's assessination (based on evidence that the Warren Commission refused to hear) was Robert Ryan's last film. With Burt Lancaster (9163062).

2:15 [3][1]] Shadows and Fog (Woody Allen 1992 US).
Woody Allen and John Malkowich star in Allens unusual comedy drama (6125664). To 3:50am.

TELLVISION GUIDL BY GERARD GILBERT

11.05 Smooth Operator. And more poin (9528337)

3.55 55 **13111)** 4 Later: Alice in Acidiand (Cheshire Cat 1988 US). Very silly cautionery tale of a Sixties college girl who goes to pot (2170138). To 250am.

Channel

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THE WEEKEND REVIEW
The Independent 27 February 1999

9.25 SMTV Live. Claire from Steps guest hosts with Ant and Dec as they hear from Cleopatra and Take 5. Ask a teanager (S) (34488350).

5.00 Sesame Street (R) (58805). 7.00 T4: Bush Tales (R) (3702144). 7.05 T4: Dig. Dug and Dalsy (8613282). 7.20 T4: Animal Alphabet (R) (3773602). 7.30 T4: Pippi Longstocking (S) (T) (52447). 8.00 T4: Transworld Sport (R) (83388). 9.00 Morning Line (S) (89534). 10.00 Inside Rugby with Thierry Lacroix (8133). 11.00 Gezzetta Football Italia (R) (T) (10945). 12.00 Boardstupid Goes Skiling (9132). 1.00 High 5 (T) (8428008). 1.35 Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures (R) (13170892). 1.55 Happy Days (R) (25337263).

6.00 Dappiedown Ferm (A) (27833553), 6,25 Plonsters (R) (52719640), 6,30 Havakazoo (R) (8166398), 7.00 5 News and Sport (S) (8478843), 7,30 Mikarakel (S) (3791517), 7,35 Wimzieb House (R) (S) (3638669), 8,00 Leselle (R) (S) (4404843), 8,30 Wishbons (R) (S) (440314), 8,00 Lend of the Lost (R) (494466), 9,30 Keblerni (R) (5) (9415080), 10,00 Loggerheads (R) (848350), 10,30 The Vionder Vears (448350), 11,00 The Pepsi Chert (R) (S) (T) (2431749), 11,30 Foorts (42767802), 11,48 Beverly Hills, 90210 (R) (S) (T) (1517195), 12,40 Singled Out (R) (S) (48861840), 1,05 Beng Liberty (R) (S) (88857114), 1,30 RAD (81552350), 1,50 5 News (S) (16626911).

2.20 ITIM Danielle Steel's No Greater Love (Richard Heftron 1935 US). Kelly Rutherford plays a young woman in mounting siter the death of her family and her flancé on the Titanio. She hasn't quite lost everything, however, as she has inherited the running of a newspaper business in Boston. Now read on... (773/553).

2.25 Channel 4 Racing from Kempton Park. Derek
Thompson introduces the day's nag action from
Kempton Park, feeturing the 2.35, 3.05, 3.35, 4.10 and
4.40pm races (85550282).

6.30

Channel 4 News Weather. Presented by Jon Snow and including all Saturday's sporting news (1) (7/8).

6.55 Night Fever. Suggs hosts the karaoke entertainment show -- and this week's guests include Steps (R) (S) (9832195).

6.00 Hercutess the Legendary Journeys. Princess Xena Joins forces with Hercutes when her troops revolt against her (R) (S) (8052517).

5.85 5 News and Sport (S) (T) (7420832).

3.30 Sunset Beach Omnibus (R) (S) (T) (33467783).

2.00 Sportsweek on S. Gail McKenna links this dissperate mix of winter-sports action from Colorado, with ice-hockey, motorcycle-supercross and Argentinian soccer, highlights (S) (1232114).

7.30 The Spying Came. This entertaining series incress on to the complicated art of counter-intelligence, helped slong by the reminiscences of Soviet double agent Oleg Penkovsky (S) (T) (602). 7.00 Right to Reply. Roger Bolton Introduces viewers' points of view (1) (8553).

8.00 Rural Bides. On the first anniversary of last year's Countryside March, Elinor Goodman looks at the problems and fears of people fiving in rural areas. Size travels around the country on horseback to talk to landowners and environmentalists. Has anything changed since last year's outcry? (T) (9534).

8.05 The World's Wildest Daredevils. Foolege of an array of bold stunts from around the world, including freefalls from great heights, high-speed car crashes, etc., etc., etc. (5) (4680755).

7.45 5 News and Sport (S) (T) (65(6350)

9.00 [31](1) soylent Green (Richard Fleischer 1972 US).
Very witty and topical of Chennel 4, given the current furore over genetically-modified, so-called furore over genetically-modified, so-called "Frankentoods", to screen this sol-it tals in which 21 st-century cop Cheriton Heston learns the shocking truth about the synthetic foodstuffs being fed to the population of New York, Edward G Robinson is the elderly friend, due for eufhanasia, who can still remember the good old days of the late 20th century (55814824).

9.00 ITM Inflammable (Peter Werner 1995 US). Nautical thiller storring Marg Heigenberger as an inexperienced Navy lawyer who finds herself entengled in the inevitable wab of sex, drugs and murder when she beards a US warship to investigate a murder and attempted rape. Kristofferson is the initially hostile ships captain (S) (T) (49982992).

10.48 Sex and the City, Carrie ponders the consequences of using sex for personal gain when a French architect gives her \$1,000 after a date. As if (T) (962553).

12.30 Exploitica - Just Say No (71062). 1.00 Pop-Up Video (4913157) 1.25 Alice in Acidiand (4983916).

FILM OF THE DAY

MRLVIN AND HOWARD (12:10am BBC2, right) Jonathan Dennius's lovely 1890 cornedy about the American Dream and the meaning of happiness—extrapolated from a reol-life incident in which amiable Nevada millonan and gas-station altendant Melvin Dummar tplayed by Paul LeMat) picks up what he lakes to be a tramp in the desert, but his passenger turns out to be grizzled billionaire Howard Hughes. Jason Hobards gives a beaulifully judged performance as Hughes—all long, straggly hair and burnt-out eyes—but Denume's real affinity is with Melvin, the perpetual loser who became a \$156 million beneficiary of one of Hughes' wills.









MAKE IF . HOW TO SPEND Material world: is felt really the

SHOPPING, PAGE 11

new cashmere?



After the Shogue Mitsubishi's. latest 4x4 MOTORING, PAGE 12



Get yourself protected

It's vital to insure your mortgage repayments. But can you afford it? By Teresa Hunter

st rates and a housing market, the long ines of weary home owners quening at Shelter offices for advice on avoiding repossession show little signs of diminishing. Quite the reverse. Most of us can expect to fall ill or lose our jobs at some stage charing our working lives and, without adequate savings or insurance, thereby make it impossible to meet mortgage repayments.

Government support to home owners has been cut back sharply since the beginning of the decade to a point where only a minority will be in a position to qualify for state support appay their monthly mortgage bill. Most lenders begin repossession procedures after missing just two monthly payments.

During the last recession, private mortgage insurance providers became charred by a reputation for wrigging through every loophole and clause to avoid meeting claims. However, this week mortgage lenders and insurance companies, backed by the Government, have launched a new initiative which is aimed at removing the potential for grief from home ownership. They have produced a new-style insurance policy that is designed to iron out many of the flaws of the old contracts and to provide most home owners with a

hasic level of security. However, critics maintain that for all its good intentions, those on the margin of owner occupation remain as inerable as ever Worse still, these new policies could provide a Government determined to shrink the welfare hill, with a springboard to cut state support yet further.

Changes to income support have meant fliat since October 1995, anyone who bought or re-mortgaged a property will not have the interest paid on their mortgage for the first nine months if they have an accident, fall sick or become unemployed. Moreover mortgage interest is unlikely to be paid if you have a working partner or savings of more than £3,000. And any mortgage above £100,000, not an immodest amount in the South East, is excluded.

All of which explains why mortgage repossessions are still running at 33,000 a year, and are almost guaranteed to soar well beyond the 1991 peak



a serious recession:

mortgage lenders are eager to enthe Government estimates at least 55 per cent of all home buyers need.

To make the policies more attractive the Council of Mortgage Lenders ... though lenders have until July 2001 to has produced a quasi-code, guaran- bring existing contracts into line. This teeing minimum standards. All poli-

of 75,000 if the economy does head min cies, for example, must pay out after 60 days, and cover repayments for a To avert a potential crisis, therefore, year. There should be fewer automatic exclusions for pre-existing medical courage as many people as possible conditions. Furthermore contract policies would need to be altered. to protect themselves by buying in- workers can be covered if they have surance against sickness and unem- worked for the same employer for at ployment Currently only one in five least a year. Similarly, the self-

> actually wind up their business. Such basic cover will be mandatory for all policies sold after July alcould be described as an univeasorably

generous timetable, given that four of our major lenders - the Halifax, Abbey National, Nationwide and Woolwich admitted that some of their existing

Despite these reforms Shelter says the new contracts still do too little to help those in most need. A spokesman borrowers opts for protection which employed can claim, provided they explains: "The people who need this are still less likely to buy it than those in secure jobs with surplus income

who probably don't need it at all. "The low-paid, contract workers, and those who rely on overtime, commission and bonuses, always existed

in the housing market only at the margins. There is no decline in the num-bers of desperate people visiting our offices pleading for help to keep the roof over their heads.

"More worryingly we are seeing a new category of people desperate for help, who never thought their home might be at risk. These are the middle-aged, middle-class, often small business owners, who due to ill health, unemployment or recession are suddenly unable to meet their repayments and find themselves facing the prospect of losing the family home. If you lose your job or your business at 55, you will not recover

"There is quite a bit of anecdotal evidence suggesting that lenders are moving more quickly to repossess than ever, because the relatively buoyant housing market allows them to minimise their loss by selling quickly."

Shelter is also very concerned that the position will be exacerbated by the new breed of flexible mortgages that allow home owners to borrow up to the hilt using their houses as security. Furthermore some, even within the in-dustry, fear extending the cover for 12 months could trigger a further clawback of state support.

A spokesman for the Council of Mortgage Lenders says: "There has been some speculation that they could extend to a year the period during which they will not pay income support, but we are not aware of any im-

minent changes planned."
Finally the new policy does nothing to address the high cost of cover, which desirable though it may be, is often beyand the already stretched budgets of most home buyers. Although the majority of lenders say they will improve their cover to at least match that of the new basic prototype without any adcombinal charges, the ems expensive at around £5.75 per £100 of

monthly mortgage repayment. Even at today's very low interest rates this adds £25 to the monthly bill of a £60,000 mortgage. Worse still, this doubles if you want to insure two incomes, increasingly vital to protecting

a modern mortgage. And there's no looking to the Government for help on that front. More likely it will move to stem mortgage interest tax relief further in the next budget, in itself adding £17.33 to most people's home-loan bill. As the song says: the only way - for home-ownership hills at least - is un.

BARGAIN HUNTER



Property of the week Rode to joy

JUST OVER £12,500 has been knocked off the price of this two bedroom cottage in Rode, once a clothproducing village, four miles from Frome, in Somersel and 11 miles from Bath. About 250 years old (as are many other buildings in the village) and tucked away by the village green, the three-storey semi has roses around the door, a new bathroom, fitted kitchen and cosy sitting room with brick fireplace. The present owners have reduced the price for a quick sale, so it's yours for £79,950 through Palmer Snell (01225 448440). ROSALIND RUSSELL

Car of the week The £13,600 Jaguar XJ6

"GRACE, SPACE and pace" ran the ads for Jaguar saloons in the Sixties, a rare example of hype-free advertising. One thing about Jaguars was that they depreciated like a brick dropped from a tower block. The bad news for new buyers is that they still do. Which makes Jaguars great used buys, especially as owners Ford have improved build quality to stratospheric heights.

The beautifully restyled XJ6 in 1994 looked and performed brilliantly. In 3.2 litre sport trim it would have cost over £31,000. But Kempshott Cars (01256 817356) has such a car, with 72,000 miles on the clock, a British racing green finish and a full service record, for just £13,695. About the cost of a new Ford Focus 1.6 Ghia saloon. Which would you choose

JAMES RUPPERT

Deal of the week The good life insurance

ANYONE NEEDING a mortgage will be told they must have life insurance too. The reason is that the lender rants the insurance to pay off the loan if you die. The bright side is that at least your beneficiaries will get the house for nothing. This is a simple product (you die, they pay out), and the market is highly competitive. One company featured before in this column is Life-Search (0845 6030401). Its premise is simple: it will undercut any other offer in the market.

Now there's better: TQ Direct, in Wolverhampton, will rebate back two thirds of the commission it would otherwise earn on a deal. In plain language, that means hundreds of pounds in your pocket. The number is 0800 0561838. So now you know.

Of course, you could always call TQ Direct, get a quote and then see what Life-Search does. But that would be cheating, wouldn't it?

NIC CICUITI

Mr Bradford and Mr Bingley: martyrs to the mutual cause

The bowler-hatted duo have been sacrificed as the B&B acts to avoid becoming another victim of the forces of conversion. By Andrew Verity

BRADFORD & BINGLEY this week mounted a new offensive in the battle for the survival of the building society movement, launching three major initiatives aimed at proving the benefits of its mutual status.

Anxious to squash any suggestion that building societies are old-fashioned, B&B's first move was to ditch what it had discovered was a dangerously dated image: the bowler-hatted Mr Bradford and Mr Bingley.

Research - showing the pair are considered "sexist" by a majority of women customers - prompted the society to overhaul its trademark, instead introducing a new logo conting of a rainbow-coloured monage of "sexless" bowler hats.

But the society's attempt to prevote on a proposal from Stephen Major, a phimber in Lisburn, Northern Ireland, that the board take steps to become a bank.

As part of its campaign against the move, B&B has become the first big mortgage lender to launch a service designed to protect home buyers from the traditional pitfalls of house purchase.

In line with government reforms designed to make house buying easier, buyers visiting B&B estate agents after April will be able to get a survey of the home they want to purchase before they put in an offer half the time that it takes to complete

Property buyers and sellers will serve itself goes further than a also be offered insurance cover change of image. In April it faces a against hitches in the buying process, protecting themselves, against an adverse survey further down the house-buying chain, an adverse valuation, or even unreasonable conduct by the other party.

Buyers taking part in the "Fast Move" initiative will also be offered a mortgage guaranteed to be extended on completion, as long as their credit records are clean. And they will receive a guarantee against structural faults in the property they buy if they are not disclosed in

The initiative, designed to cut by

a purchase, comes at a turbulent time for the building society, which is seeking to persuade its 25 million members, many of them carpetbaggers to begin with, to keep the

society mutual.

B&B is also seeking to prove it can offer better rates on its savings products than rivals, such as the Halifax and the Northern Rock, that have converted to banks. A series of tax-efficient Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs), matching government-approved "CAT-standards". will become available on 6 April.

.To underline the benefits of mutuality, B&B is hoping to outclass its converted rivals by offering better interest rates. Its ISA will

guarantee to match bank base rates, currently 5.5 per cent, throughout 1999. Existing members of B&B will get a bonus of a further 1 per cent in interest for the first year.

B&B's fight to stay mutual means that the new ISAs will only be open to existing members; the society was forced to shut its doors to new customers to ward off the threat of an influx of carpethaggers.

In league tables of savings account interest rates, building societies have been able to dominate the upper ranks, offering interest that is approaching base rates on instant access.

But they are increasingly facing challenge from another group

that claims to have an even better advantage than the mutuals. "Direct banks" say that they can offer higher rates because they do not have to pay the cost of an expensive branch network. Postal banks such as Egg, owned by the Prudential, and Stan-

dard Life Bank, are challenging

them for the new funds. Both Egg and Standard Life Bank are beating the rates offered by building societies by attracting business without using a branch network - both over the Internet and over the phone. In its first six months of operation alone, Egg attracted over £3bn -- compared to total deposits of

26.7bn at B&B. Christopher Rodrigues, B&B's

chief executive, believes the direct banks are buying business, using shareholders' funds to offer high rates of interest that cannot last. He claims the rate-hunting customers will quickly disappear when the

rates no longer top the tables. "The biggest impact of Egg taking that much money is on Prudential shareholders, since they are paying for it," he says. "All the indications are that those customers are not loyal: they churn their money. And customers who churn are very expensive: I guarantee you that at some time Pru shareholders will not let them pay those rates." He must be hoping his customers agree. See Nic Cicutti's column, page 2

STANDARD LIFE BANK"

Thanks another billion.



EVERY TIME I write about mutuality, a flood of letters arrives chiding me for arguing in favour of building societies (and insurers, for that matter) remaining in the hands of their members. Doubtlessly another pile will land on my desk in the

coming week But one can't help discussing the issue, especially in the wake of Bradford & Bingley's announcement this week of a new package of financial services initiatives for its members, a package that is aimed partly at defending its mutuality in a ballot due to be launched next month.

B&B's measures are discussed elsewhere in this section, and readers will have to make up their own minds as to which way they will sway voters who are deciding whether to back or to oppose a resolution in favour of flotation.

First, let me declare an interest. I am a B&B member and will be casting my vote against the resolution. I wish I could say that the package unveiled this week will help me do that. Sadly, it won't - of itself - though it may do so, in

other ways. Take the society's plans for its estate agency chain. The concept of a "sellers" survey" aimed at speeding up the sale of a property through B&B's estate agency chain is a good one. Except that the two areas in which I am buying and selling a property don't have a B&B agent. Geographical limitations mean that that idea doesn't help me at all.

As for its offer to lend a mortgage of up to 95 per cent of a home's value to buyers of a property being sold with one of B&B's sellers' surveys, that all depends on whether a B&B loan is the right one for borrowers. Nothing that B&B has available at present particularly attracts

Then there's the planned expansion of B&B's network of independent financial advisers (IFAs). The trouble is, I don't really think much of B&B's IFA network

Its advisers sell a narrow range of financial products from a "panel" selected for them. Their "independence"



CICUTTI

Sharing in the annual profit is better than greedily voting for a one-off set of shares

pening to him.

income and his family.

off his annual tax bill.

2HD (01225 469 371).

sonal pension with Equitable Life.

separate life cover for himself, which

would pay off the mortgage if any-

The adviser: Ian Millward, invest-

ment marketing manager at Chase

De Vere, independent financial ad-

visers, 2 Queen Square, Bath, BA1

The advice: Jim has enough life

cally he should aim to have at least

an additional £150,000 of cover to pro-

vide a lump sum for his partner and

child, should be die. This shouldn't

be too expensive. For example, on

normal terms, Scottish Provident

quotes a monthly premium of £19.38

for £150,000 cover on a 20-year term.

Permanent health insurance is

cover for the mortgage, but realisti-

thing were to happen to him.

is a source of much mockery among genuine IFAs. B&B contends that its products (and, by implication, its advisers) are designed to suit "Middle England". However, even if you accept such a lumping together of so many individual needs, that doesn't mean they would suit me.

B&B's proposals for a range of Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs) might be attractive (as its other savings rates undoubtedly are). However, we will only be in a better position to tell once other institutions announce their cash ISA rates after April 6.

But, you might ask, if B&B's products are so unattractive at present, why defend its mutuality? Partly because there are some savings accounts which are still highly competitive. And its mortgages, though not personally appealing, are also very good value.

And because, ultimately, I believe that mutuality must survive on the basis that, even if something is not always good for me, it may still benefit someone else. At some stage in the future there will almost certainly be something in the B&B range that suits my personal needs. Give and take, in

other words. Sure, it ain't always the most exciting (or financially rewarding) concept in the world. But allowing others a greater share in the annual £110m members' profitshare from B&B - this once

- has got to be better than greedily voting for a one-off set of shares worth £750 from the society's flotation. Or am I wrong?

It's simple, yet subtle

FINANCIAL MAKEOVER

NAME: JIM CHOI AGE: 34 OCCUPATION: FREELANCE WRITER



Being self-employed, Jim Choi's financial arrangements need looking at carefully

weeks, the cost of cover with Friends he does need an element of security shelter, such as a PEP or after 5 April Provident is £36.45. Opting for a de-

fliGEN 25 at 51 Dec

Representative only of the legal & General marketing group, men

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until April 1999. From that date a new by privileged

uning while, the individual

cost to £18.59. Jim could also consider critical illness cover, which will pay out a lump sum on diagnosis of serious illness. This is becoming more popular these days, but can be expensive.

Another area Jim should consider is his mortgage. He currently has a variable rate mortgage with the Halifax at 6.95 per cent, backed by an endowment with Legal & General.

Endowments are often criticised. as they tend to be quite inflexible and expensive in the early years. But in his situation it is best to continue with the endowment and accept that it also essential in Jim's position as this should deliver a reasonable hump ple, if the deferment period is four reliable as that of a paid employee, look to wrap this up in a tax-efficient whether it is; worth transferring appear in the paper

Coventry Building Society is cur-1999, an ISA. Finally, Jim needs to consider his ferred period of 26 weeks cuts the rently offering a five-year variable rate mortgage, capped at 5.75 per

cent. If rates continue to fail Jim will benefit. The other beauty of this scheme is that it has no penalties after five years, and includes a free valuation, plus no arrangement fees or legal costs. Looking at the rest of his finances,

Jim seems to be in reasonable condition. He regularly puts money aside to pay his tax bill. He has done reasonably well on windfall and privatisation shares, holding a total portfolio worth approximately £3,200. Whether he should continue holding these is another matter, it may be he. should consider other options. If he will provide a regular income should sum at the end of the period. There is happy that he wants to be looking he become unable to work for the are plenty of good mortgage offers at stockmarkel-based investment, at the with-profits fund. long term. One way of reducing the around these days, but bearing in pooled vehicle, such as a unit trust, " Pension arrangements from his 'Square, Canary Wharf, London cost is to out for a longer period be mind that Jim is self-employed and investment trust or OFIC hist suit." previous employment also need re "E165DL. You must be prepared fore the cover comes in. For exam- his income stream may not be as him better. Where possible, he should viewing. He needs to consider for your name and picture to

pension. His existing scheme is with Equitable Life. In a with profits fund, bonuses are added on a regular basis, so returns should be smooth and steady, unlike a unit-linked investment where the fund will move. in line with the stockmarket. Generally, you would expect a unit-linked fund to deliver superior performance. over the longer term and Jim has been considering moving some of his pension fund out of with-profits.

However, the Equitable Life withprofits fund has performed well, while some of its unit-linked management is not really as good. On this occasion, I would suggest that should to your financial needs, write to: continue investing his premiums in

these either into his personal pension. or another vehicle, and whether or not this will give a better return than just leaving them where they are. He needs to speak to an adviser who can offer a specialist service looking at as any decision will need to take into account transfer penalties, the initial

Mark Chilvers

values in the future. This can be done - at a cost. But it might be worthwhile, both in terms of helping him decide what to do, and also for peace of mind.

costs of transferring and the likely

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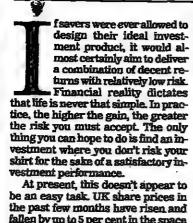
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subtle Give me dull any day

They're not the most exciting investment, but with-profit bonds have their place. By Nic Cicutti



fallen by up to 5 per cent in the space of a few days. This week, they closed at record highs. But many experts still fear things could rapidly turn som:

Charles Timm, managing director it vid With-Profits Bond Shop, says: Many members of the public who are ringing us up at the moment are saying that they are getting very nervous about the way share prices appear to be moving recently. They are also worried about the volatility we have been seeing recently in the markets. There is [still] a view that there could be a

major correction." For hundreds of thousands of investors, with-profits bonds offer that seemingly elusive blend. Their investment mix - a combination of eqnities, fixed interest securities and property - are designed so that while

A COUPLE of weeks ago I

commented on the speed of

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progress in the virtual world. The

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Interactive Investor, Moneyworld

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These sites each attempt to

cover the full range of personal

described as a cross between a

financial supermarket. Other sites

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E-mail: helpline@gartmore.com

web: www.ii.co.uk/gartmore

web-based magazine and a

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business models and methods

bondholders can expect better returns than from a typical building society account, the risk required to obtain it is not that great.

Unlike traditional equity-based investments - which can rise like a rocket and drop like a stone within the space of a day - bonds behave differently. They are designed so that each year, an annual bonus is added to the original sum invested. This "reversionary bonus" is allocated in one of two forms. For traditional with profits policies, it is based on an actual amount added to the value of the policy. So-called "unitised" policies, where the policy is divided into units will add a few percentage points to the value of each one.

But the important effect of this borrus is that once added, it cannot be taken away. As a result, with-profits bonds will generally grow by a small but regular amount each year, no mat-

ter what stockmarkets are doing.
This growth is linked to yields from fixed-interest securities, inchoing government gilts. It is also related to an assessment by the life insurance company selling the bond of future investment returns. The reason for this is that the insurer aims to "smooth" investment returns each year, using surpluses built up in good times to pad out poor years. The result is steady, if unexciting, growth vear after year.

launched DiscountPensions

website giving comparative

quotations, from just three

The DiscountPensions service

commission, with the rest recycled

Typical commissions normally

single premium personal pension

plans are 5 per cent to 6 per cent .

commission is 30 to 35 per cent of

the premiums for an initial period

of up to 27 months. There is also a

225 handling fee. However, as an

introductory offer, policies set up

before the end of the tax year will

If you like what you see on the

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surrender values.

taken away, they are not hugely generous, barely a few percentage points a year. However, investors in with-profits bonds will generally also receive a further sum, the "terminal bonus", when they decide to cash the

This terminal bonus, as with a normal with-profits endowment, is virtually impossible to know in advance. Generally it is linked to overall returns from the investments held in the bond minus any charges and ex-penses, tax which is deducted within

Life is not that simple in practice, the higher

the life company fund, and alreadyattached houses

But a £10,000 investment made in the average with profits bond in August 1993 would have grown to £14,466

INTERNET

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ROBIN AMLÔT

pack of information to be

dispatched to you by post,

normally the next working day.

on completing an insurance

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Available within the Gartmore Global PEP.

The pack includes guidance notes

company's application form, and

there is a telephone number and

than the £11,850 paid by a typical 90- break of £4,195 (plus an extra £190 day building society account. The top-performing with-profits fund de-livered £15,207.

With-profits bonds are generally not as attractive, tax-wise, as PEPs. This is because they are "tax paid" investments - they are subject to a basic rate of tax within the life fund, after deductions for expenses.

Higher-rate taxpayers face an additional liability when they cash in the bond. For non-taxpayers, the fact that they can't reclaim the tax paid on the investment means with-profits bonds are not really suitable for them.

Nevertheless, bonds can still play a useful part in an individual's overall tax planning. This is because, as with any single premium life insurance bond, current tax rules allow investors to take annual "income" from the fund. This can be up to 5 per cent of the original amount invested, for up to 20 years, and is treated as a return of capital. Any tax liability is deferred until the bond is completely encashed.

Of course, if you are a higher-rate taxpayer, it makes sense to wait for a moment when you will be on a lower rate of tax (perhaps after retirement) so that encashment does not involve

any additional liability. Moreover, with-profits bonds also help to sort out a tax "wrinkle" faced by anyone over state retirement age. This is where an additional allowance

after 75). Yet any earnings over £16,200 result in the additional allowance being lost at a rate of £1 for every £2 of extra earnings.

However, because the 5 per cent of annual income is not classed as such by the Inland Revenue, this allowance is not lost, delivering a small but significant gain to anyone in that "allowance trap".

Who is the typical with-profits bond investor? Amanda Davidson, a partner at Holden Meehan, London-based independent financial advisers, says: "They are likely to be someone who is relatively risk averse. They do not like to see all their money going directly into equities. They may also have a need for income, coupled with low-risk returns."

She adds that with-profits bonds can be held as part of a balanced portfolio, where an individual's overall investment also consists of normal unit or investment trusts, as well as a building society account.

"The Independent' has produced a free 24-page 'Guide to With-Profits Bonds'. Written by Nic Cicutti, this paper's personal finance editor, the auide examines the arauments for and against investing in bonds. It explains the tax implications, and where to buy a bond. For your copy of the guide, sponsored by The With-Profits Bond Shop, call 0845 2711007

LOOSE CHANGE

PEPs, available until the HALIFAX IS launching a campaign aimed at helping customers find the best taxfree savings for their needs The campaign will include an information pack. Details from branches.

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the gain, the greater the risk you must accept

What is the performance like? As one might expect from an investment in which just 50 per cent of the fund is directly equity-linked, they are unlikely, over the long-term, to match a traditional unit or investment trust. or the FTSE 100 share index.

Although annual bonuses cannot be five years later. This is £2,930 more of £1,215 is added to the normal tax

an e-mail address for help and advice if required.

DiscountPensions is run by independent consulting actuaries, Geoffrey Bernstein & Co. The website provides no advice. It offers an execution-only service, processing investors' orders. This means that it is not a site for absolute beginners!

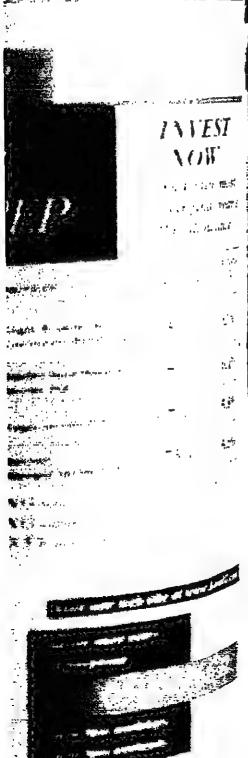
The site's main weakness is the limited choice of pensions, from just three companies: Axa Sun Life, Norwich Union and Standard Life. DiscountPensions says it will add more companies in the future. Nevertheless, despite the current limited choice, the much-reduced commission makes the potential return and the pension fund accumulated, substantially more attractive than purchase through the usual channels.

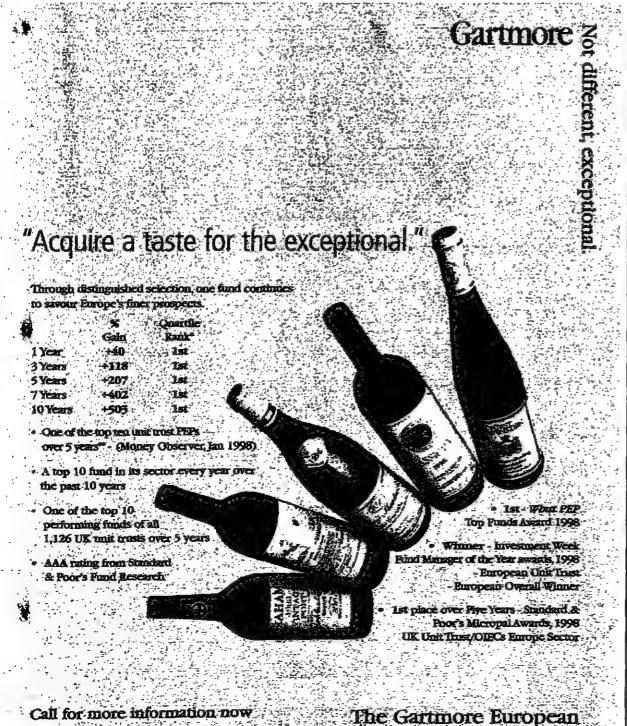
To return to the financial - . supermarket concept, a major new player is set to enter the Internet arena. A new holding company has been established, based in Dublin, with initial capital investment of £10.4 million The company, enba, intends to

offer a variety of Internet-based financial services ventures aimed at investors across Europe, and wants to establish its own electronic banking and brokerage services. Among enba's backers are the venture capital group Apax Partners, and US microchip maker Intel. The group's chairman is Sir Nicholas Redmayne, previously CEO of city brokers Kleinwort Benson. The website is already in place, but enba has not yet launched any of its planned services and is currently recruiting staff.

DiscountPensions: www. discountpensions.co.uk; enba: unun enba com

Robin can be reached at RobinAmlot@aol.com





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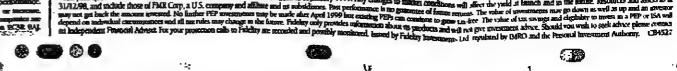
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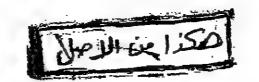
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2004: THERE IS a date to conjure with. Write it in your diary. It promises to be an eventful year in the UK. According to Prime Minister Tony Blair, 2004 is the first year in which we might reasonably be expected to join the Single European Currency.

There are a lot of hurdles to cross before we sign up to the euro, but the coded message is that we are going in. However the referendum is worded, it sounds as though it will be begging the answer yes to linking the pound to the currency of our continental cousins. For all I know, "our Tone" is right. But it does strike me that two months is not

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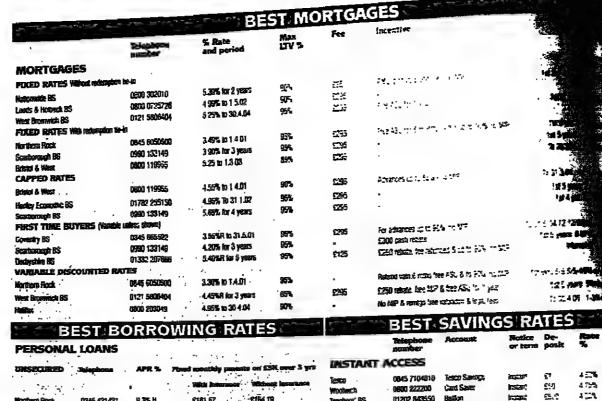
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Brian Tora is chairman of the Greig Middleton investment strategy



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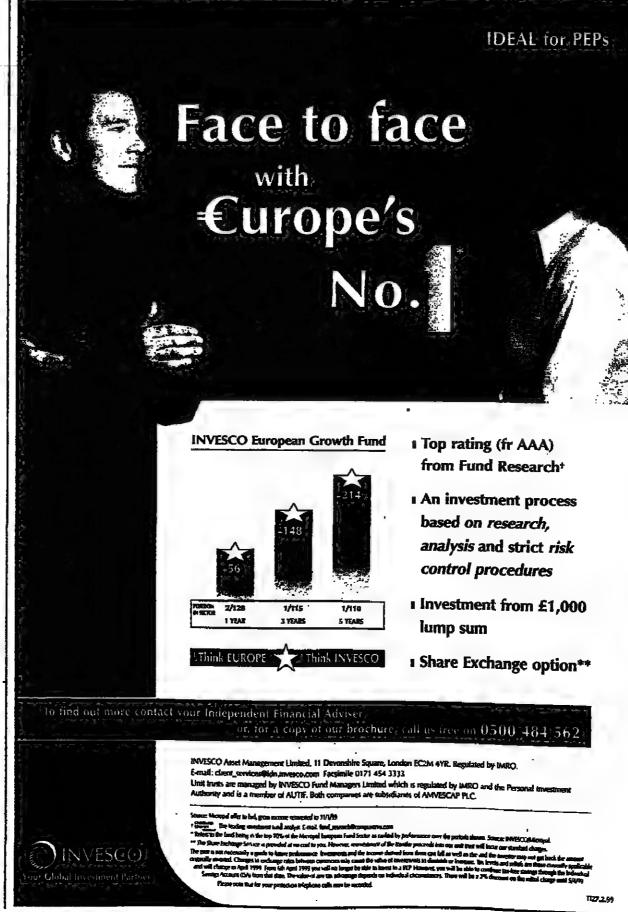
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MOTENTENT .

Bring all your debts to account

If you like to keep things simple where finances are concerned, a flexible mortgage account could be for you. But look carefully at the options on offer to make sure you get the best deal. By Iain Morse

hink of the many types of financial arrangements we might have gage, an overdraft facility, a deposit account, a personal loan and a credit card. The chances are that most of us will be dealing with at least two or more providers in relation to these products.

The problem with this way of doing things is not only that it is an exceedingly cumbersome way to sort out one's financial arrangements. Borrowers can also end up paying through the nose for credit.

Few lenders charge less than 15 per cent interest on authorised Severdrafts, and most cap the amount they will lend in this way at an amount equivalent to one months'

take home pay. If you go over the au-thorised limit, all lenders impose punitive rates of interest, typically

Unsecured personal loans are also expensive and carry stiff penalties for early redemption. Examples include the Royal Bank of Scotland, charging a hefty 28.2 per cent APR on a loan of £500 to £1,450, with an penalty of 2 months interest for early redemption of the loan.

Flexible mortgages offer an alternative, low-cost route to borrowing by consolidating your debts into one account, secured on the value of your home. The maximum you can borrow will be set as a percentage of its market value.

This allows you to borrow at the standard variable mortgage rate charged by a flexible morigage

provider These rates range from just 6.69 per cent, charged by Tipton & Coseley, to a variety of variable rates from First Active, ranging between 7.24 per cent and 8.24 per cent, depending on the loan-to-value, or LTV This makes Tipton look the better deal, but examining the fine print of each loan shows up some important differences.

For instance, Tipton will lend no more than 75 per cent of LTVs, while First Active go up to 95 per cent. Both will allow overpayments, but only First Active allows underpay ments. Tipton allows you to withdraw a minimum of £1,000 just three times a year Meanwhile, First Active offers a full banking service, including cheque book, card, and credit card with no minimum limit

This shows that some flexible mortgages stretch further than others. If tempted, set out to make a and find the one most suited to your individual circumstances.

Flexible mortgages offer an alternative low-cost route to borrowing

The attraction of some flexible home loans is that they also allow borrowers to operate a mortgage like a bank account. This type of arrangement is proving to be

increasingly popular, Mark Cohen, 38, works in the City

and writes part-time. Being a writer would normally be the case, the ad- and Virgin Direct's One Account. Vir is no easy matter. There is the creative tension involved in crafting the perfect novel. Then comes the problem of how to plan one's financial affairs so that sums of money coming in irregularly can be used to meet regular outgoings, such as monthly

mortgage payments.

Mr Cohen believes he has found the answer to this problem. Last year he opened a flexible mortgage hank account into which he pays his salary from his main job with a leading city firm. He also paid in the advance he received from his first novel, Brass Monkeys, a tale of political intrigue now out in paperback.

Mr Cohen, who lives in London, says: "It has been a tremendously useful exercise. Not only am I pay-ing off my mortgage far faster than

vance on my novel has helped me reduce my debt still further. While it is there I am effectively earning a far higher rate of interest, after tax, than any other commonly available type of deposit account. But if I should ever need any of that money, it is still available to use."

Since opening the account he has used it as a normal account, "I write cheques and use ATMs, and control all my finances from it. I have never found a problem using my cheque card - there are so many dif-

ferent types of card nowadays." There are three current account mortgage providers, where cheques, cash cards and, in some cases, credit cards are available to customers as part of an all-in-one pack-

age: First Active, Kleinwort Benson

gin Direct offers rates ranging between 6.6 per cent on LTVs of 50 per cent or less, and 7.45 per cent for loans of up to 95 per cent of a home's value. Kleinwort Benson's rate is 6.45 per cent on a maximum LTV of 80 per cent.

First Active Financial: 0345 743743; Virgin One: 08456 000001

■ "The Independent" is offering a free 36-page Guide to Flexible Mortgages', with tips on all aspects of home loans, including how much you can borrow, how to repay the mortgage and a list of useful names and telephone numbers. For your copy of the guide, sponsored by First Active, call 0800 550551

For your final PEP choice...

The best advice on corporate bond and income funds. By Tony Lyons



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MOST OF the fund managers with the leading investment groups highlight Europe as the main sector for growth investors. If income is the aim, or you are nervous about the stock market's current volatile condition and the direction share prices are heading, they recommend either corporate

bond or high income funds. There are hundreds of funds to choose from in these sectors. More new corporate bond and high income funds are being launched - in the past couple of weeks we have seen Fidelity, Perpetual and Societe Generaie, among others, promoting new funds in these sectors - to attract last-minute PEP investors before PEPs end.

To help you make a choice, The Independent spoke to a number of leading indepen-dent financial advisers about the funds they would recommend for your final PEP

Among the 130 or so unit and investment trusts specialising in Europe, the IFAs all highlighted the funds run by Fidelity. Gartmore, Invesco, Newton, Scottish Widows and Jupiter. These have all had outstanding

performance records According to Graham Bates of Bates Investment Services: "The European message will continue for some time. Only five funds that were in the top 30 PEP performers for the five years up to the end of 1993 were still in the top 30 for the five years to the end of 1998.

These included Fidelity European Opportunities, and the European funds run by Lazards, Royal & SunAlliance, funds, such as Virgin and and Scottish Widows – the Marks & Spencer, that have Jupiter Income. I particularly like the Fidelity fund, as it in-

Although not a qualifying

fund, and therefore subject to the £1,500 limit on PEP investment, Kim North of Pretty Financial recommends the Societe Generale Technology fund for the long-term growth investor who does not mind tak- as the blue chips." ing a higher than average risk.

While less than a year old, the fund is run by Alan Torry, who had outstanding success when running the technology fund of Aberdeen Prolific, one of the leading long-term perstill presents some exciting investment opportunities over who prefer corporate bond the long term, and the manager funds and those who like the

the higher-risk small and medi-um sized ones." son & Colegrave recommends Old Mutual UK Growth: "It is going through a purple patch. Valued at some £200m, it is slightly smaller than most funds run by the larger groups, and it has performed well by investing in telecom and pharmaceutical companies, as well Graham Bates gives his recommendation: "Save &

Prosper Premier Equity

Growth - a consistently good performer run by a manager record, and Fidelity UK Growth, a solid, well-run fund." IFAs are split between those

'The new technology battleground, while it has risks, still presents some exciting

low-risk UK investment, then a tracker fund could be the answer. "I would favour either the Legal & General or the Scottish reducing the cost even more. You could also look at other shown good performance when compared against actively-

Among the UK growth

of this fund has proved that he can make the right stock selection," says Ms North.

If you are a first time PEP investor, or someone wanting a log yield of 6 per cent or more low sick IM importance than a log yield of 6 per cent or more low sick IM importance than a log want attraction. is very attractive. But, as rule, not rise and fall in the way

Widows fund," says Paul Penny
of Financial Discounts Direct.

So while they offer a good
deal of protection against falls These are low-charging funds, which can be bought from discount brokers such as his firm. Income funds, on the other hand, tend to invest in the ordinary shares of leading companies such as BT and BP that offer the prospect of rising capital growth in the price of

Among the conventional corporate bonds, not those in-

vesting in the more risky, almost junk bond sector, the IFAs recommend the funds offered by CGU, which pays a month-ly income, and M&G, both of which have good, consistent performance records.

"Corporate bond funds are ideal for someone who wants to maximise income, but equity income funds make a lot of sense if investors want a mix of growth and rising income," says Jason Hollands of BESt Investment. Among the funds he highly recommends are Newton Income and BWD Equity &

To these, other IFAs add Jupiter Income, Perpetual High Income, Premier Dividend Fund and Save & Prosper Premier Equity Income. "The latter, like its sister growth fund, has shown steady, consistent performance," says Graham Bates. "But most importantly, the manager has an obsessive investment opportunities in the long term' approach to stock avoidance meaning not buying into the

As an alternative course of action for investors averse to taking any high risks, Roddy Kohn of Kohn Cougar, suggests investors could look at the **BSBC** Capital Protected Income PEP. With a listing on the Dublin Stock Exchange, this has the added advantage of also offering a single company PEP for anyone who wants to make use of their full PEP

With a target yield of 7.25 per cent, it also guarantees a full return of income after five years. It invests three quarters of its money with leading high street names such the Halifax, which will return the guaranteed amount at the end of the fifth





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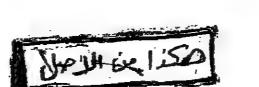
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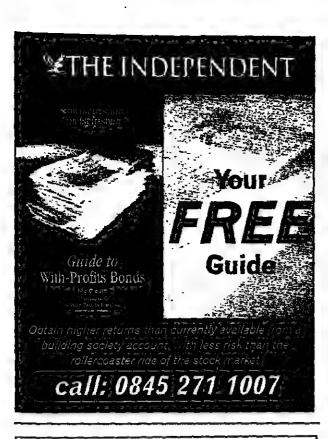
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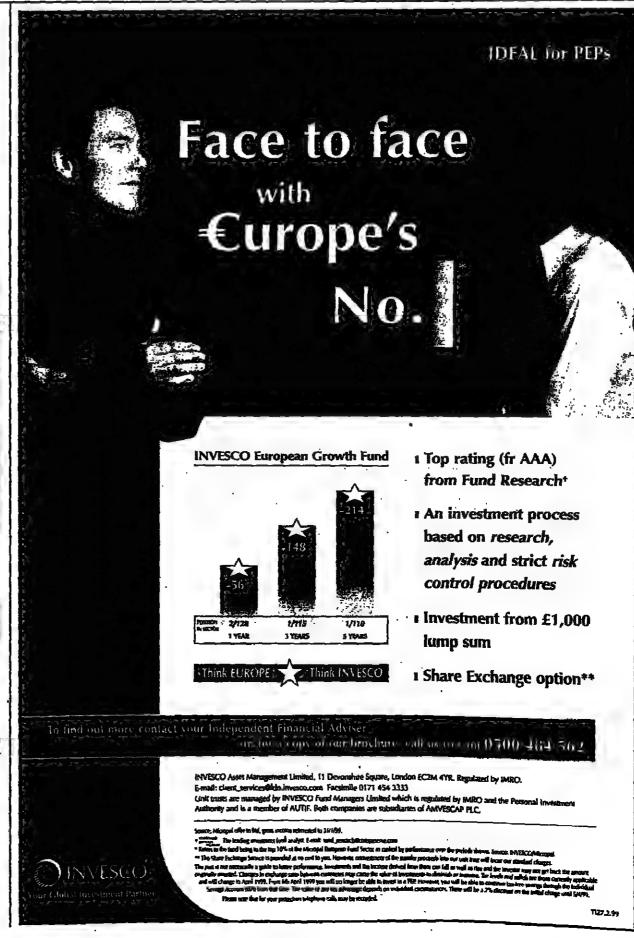
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Pick up the direct line

Direct banking services are proving ever more popular - and no wonder, says Tony Lyons

ALL THE main banks now offer and frustrated with having to face their customers telephone bank- long queues at their branch.

With all the telephone banking once accepted and registered, all you into the red at the end of the month standard Life Bank. their customers telephone banka fully comprehensive service. By the end of this year, according to Datamonitor, a management con-sultancy and research group, around a third of the UK population with hank accounts will be using the phone to do some of its banking.

This revolution started a decade ago when First Direct, a division of Midland Bank, became the first telephone-only banking service. Open 24 hours a day, every day of the year, it quickly caught on, and today has nearly 1 million customers.

It appealed to all those who were fed up with the high street banks, that were then only open until 3pm,

services you can pay bills, so long as the destination has been prearranged, check balances and recent transactions, order cheque books and statements. And a couple, including Citibank, allow you to run your account over the Internet. Most telephone banking is either free or costs the local phone call rate.

Before being able to use a telephone bank, you will have to register to use its services. If this is an offshoot of your high street bank, this is easy to arrange. Just ask next time you visit the branch

However, if you want to move your

will have to remember when using the service is the telephone number and your code word or pin number that will identify you.

It is the new entrants on the scene, including supermarket banking subsidiaries, life assurers and former building societies, that are causing the higgest stir in direct banking circles. You will find that they will offer better interest rates on your credit balances, something still rare with high street current accounts, and lower cost overdrafts than the conventional banks.

Take Alliance & Leicester, a fairly account completely, most of the di-typical example, where the annual

as we wait to be paid, would be £24, according to Moneyfocts, a personal finance magazine, compared with a charge of at least £95 with most of the high street banks.

And it pays interest of 2 per cent a year on credit balances up to £5,000. Not a lot, but compare this with the 0.25 per cent paid on Barclays Cheque Plus and Lloyds Gold or the 0.5 per cent paid on the Midland Meridian and NatWest Advan-

Some are offering generous interest rates on instant deposit accounts. Among some of the best rates currently on offer are those banking subsidiary, Safeway and

Also, some of them, including Standard Life Bank and Legal & General Bank, have ventured into the new flexible mortgages. These can be used virtually as deposit and current accounts, with lower cost overdraft facilities, as well as a means of paying off a home loan. They all offer cheque guarantee

cards that double as cash withdrawal cards, and sometimes as credit cards. As long as you can remember your pin number, you can use any authorised cash machines.

With their ease of use and availability, no wonder more of us are using telephone banking services.



Visit the bank manager in your front room

Hulton Getty

Give me a call sometime

Buying a pension over the phone is quick, simple, flexible, and far cheaper than the traditional

schemes - and it keeps the glib-talking salesmen away from your door. By Tony Lyons

IT WAS the entrance of Marks & Spencer and Virgin Direct Is a steadily growing section of into the market almost three years ago that gave a boost to direct sales of pensions, Almost overnight, thousands of the under-40 generation who had been largely unaware of the need to save for retirement, or were wary of dealing with in-surance companies, found that they could deal with untraditional pension providers who

they trusted. Prior to this, the personal pensions that could be bought r over the telephone were largely confined to more sophisticated investors. Direct sales had been around since the early Nineties, but in the main the providers were selling plans linked to investment trusts.

Offered by companies such as Merchant Investors and Foreign & Colonial, they only appealed to a small section of the population who understood the sophisticated nature of investment trusts.

"ボツ☆

The new entrants to direct selling followed by the likes of Direct Line and Tesco, took a more down-to-earth approach, largely offering plans tied to tracker funds that mirrored the performance of the leading stock market indices. A number of traditional pension providers, such as Eagle Star, Legal & General, and Scottish Widows, seeing the char the market place, also began to

offer similar plans. The direct sellers are beginning to take an Increasing share of the pension market. While less than 4 per cent of the near £70bn contributed to pension plans last year was

arranged over the telephone, it the market.

The rules governing personal pensions are the same whether they are bought over the phone, from an independent financial adviser, or through a company salesman.

So long as you have earnings from non-pensionable employment, you can take out a pension plan. And as long as you stay within the rules governing to a fully trained member of

You'll find your call will usually be answered within a conple of rings. All you then have to do is tell the operator your name and address, and the details of the schemes will be sent to you within a day or two. A number of direct

providers now offer advice if you need it. Of course, the advice will only be about that company's own pension plan. You'll find that you will be speaking



Phones cut through pension double-talk Hulton Getty

for tax relief at your highest rate of tax. This mean that your most tax-free environment.

matter) buying a pension ove the phone is simplicity itself. Most of the providers are available between 8 am and 8 pm every day of the week, on either a freephone or a number that charges the cost of a local call, with Eagle Star even offering

maximum contributions, all staff who will take you through your premiums will be eligible a quick fact-find, usually lasting between 20 and 40 minutes, to ascertain that you are eligiinvestments will grow in an al- ble to take out a personal pension, and to find out if the plan If you do not need any advice will suit your individual needs. (and even if you do, for that After this is done, and assumdat vou are e

will be posted. In the leisure of your own home, and with no sales presthe direct providers offer. You'll find that they offer a number of personal pensions. To start ditional pension providers.

with, they cost less. You can start a plan from as little as £30 a month with Tesco, but most have a higher starting point.

Charges are clearly laid out and tend to be much lower This is because there is no need for any expensive office accommodation, just the cost of a call centre usually located in a lowrent part of the country.

Telephone providers also argue that they pay no commission to their salesforces. This is hotly disputed by traditional advisers, who argue that the telephone based companies all pay bonuses of some sort to their staff. But the huge up-front commissions received by typical salesforces are nonexistent in a phone pensions

Most of the direct pensions are more flexible. If you want to put in a hump sum, you can. Payments can be usually be changed, even stopped, without penalty. Most will also allow waiver of premium benefit, which will insure that contributions will still be made if you are unable to work for long periods because of accident or ill health - Direct Line offers this free of charge. They all allow for earlier retirement than originally stated, as long as it's after age 50, without penalty.

No wonder direct pension providers, with their lower costs and greater flexibility, are expected to take an increasing share of the pension sure, you can then look at what market. It's a wonder that people still take out more expensive, inflexible, pension plans advantages over traditional still sold by the majority of tra-

Who to contact for a telephone bank

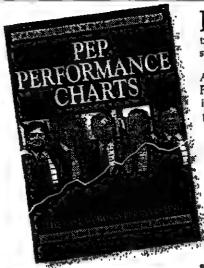
account Alliance & Leicester on 0500 959595; First Direct on 0800 242424; Barclays on 0800 400100; Egg on 0845 6000292; Legal & General on 0500 111200; Lloyds on 0800 147789; Midland on 0800 180180; NatWest on 0800 200400: Citibank on 0800 008800; Safeway on 0800 995995; Standard Life Bank on 0345 555657.

Who to contact for a telephone pension

Virgin Direct on 0345 900900; Marks & Spencer Life Assurance on 0800 363432; Direct Line Life on 0845 300233; Eagle Star Direct on 0800 776666; Legal & General Direct on 0500 909090; Scottish Widows Direct on 0345 678910; Tesco on 0845 8455555: Merchant Investors on 0800 374857; Foreign & Colonial on 9171 454 1415.

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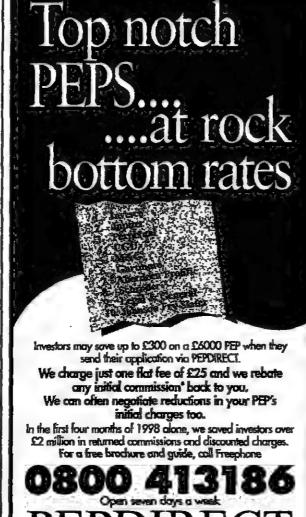
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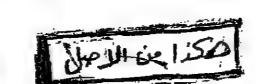
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FIVE QUESTIONS THAT YOU NEED TO ASK ABOUT TERM ASSURANCE

often are rates reviewed?

 When would the plan pay out and how much will it pay? If your partner also needs life cover, look at joint cover, though single cover is better if you split up or the need for cover is likely to continue if one of you dies.

 Can the policy be extended or converted at the end of or during the term? If so, what are the

> Is this the cheapest cover in the market? Term assurance is a commodity

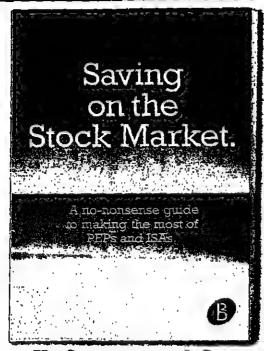
product - there is little point paying more for a brand

• Will the policy be written under trust? This usually costs nothing but means faster payout on death and avoids having to pay Inheritance Tax on the sum

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Is the premium

guaranteed? If not, how



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Ensuring that there is money in the pot

In the second of a series of articles on how you can create your own personal welfare state, we look at the savings to be made on life assurance. By Andy Couchman

assurance is likely to fall away

over the years, you could look

at a policy where the sum

assured goes down each year.

sounds. If you are buying a

house or flat and have a re-

payment mortgage, for exam-

pie, the amount owed will fall

each year as you slowly repay

the capital borrowed. A mort-

gage protection policy is de-

signed to go down by a roughly

similar amount so that you do

not have to pay for more cover

takes a different approach. In-

year until the end of the term.

A policy paying £10,000 a year

Family income benefit plans

than you need.

That is not as strange as it

INSURERS DO not always have a reputation for passing on cost savings to their customers, but basic life assurance has become something of a buyers' market in recent times. It now costs less than it did before anyone had heard of Aids in the early Eighties.

In fact, if prices continue falling at their current levels, insurers could, within 15 years, be in the position of paying you to take out a policy. Or so suggests Swiss Re, a company which specialises in sharing risks with insurers, and which regularly monitors trends in term assurance pricing.

That partly reflects the fact that we are now living longer. Figures just released by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries show that, on average, a man of 30 can expect to live to the age of 79 and three months, almost five-and-a-half years longer than a man of the same age could expect in 1960.

A woman aged 30 will live even longer - to 84 years and four months. Of course, if you are a smoker, the news is not so good. Women smokers on average can expect to live seven years less, male smokers for five-and-a-half years less.

Not everyone needs life assurance. If you have no dependants, you probably have no need for it, though if you borrow money, the lender may insist that you have enough to pay off their loan if you die. As you get older, moreover,

the need for life assurance also largely falls away, unless, that is, your estate exceeds £223,000 and you do not want ally in line with average prices your home in order to pay any inheritance tax (IHT).

The tax kicks in at £223,000

at a stinging 40 per cent and is payable on your whole estate, seven years before your death.

Many people simply want to ensure that in the event of their death, their partner and any children are well protected financially while they are still financially dependent. The cheapest way to do that is with a term assurance policy.

The reason it is so cheap a woman aged 30 could pay just £6.12 a month to get £100,000 cover for 15 years, a man of 30, £8.18 a month - is that it only pays out if you die during the policy term. As you are unlikely to die until well into refirement, the policy is likely to expire before you do.

The flip side is that if you do not die before the term, neither you nor your estate gets anything back. To help improve those odds, you could instead have a renewable policy. This usually lasts for 10 years and at the end of the term you effectively start again. As you are older it will cost more then, and a little more initially too, as the life company could be taking on

a much longer-term risk. A convertible policy allows you to convert to another type of policy, usually a whole of life policy which, as its name suggesta, lasts just as long as you do. You can also have a policy that is both renewable and convertible. Basic term, renewable term

or convertible term are likely to have a fixed sum assured or one that goes up each year, usuis best, as earnings tend to out-If you are looking to reduce

costs and your need for life



£200,000 if you died in the first

year but it would cost consid-

erably less than a policy with

a level £200,000 sum assured.

However, if you died after.

say, 18 years, it would only pay out two payments of £10,000.

This type of plan is most use-

who are likely to be financial-

ly dependent on you until they

The final consideration

when deciding which type of

term assurance is best for you

is whether you want guaran-

teed rates or reviewable rates.

compare its actual experience

The Schroder High Yield Bond PEP

Will your family be looked after when you are six feet under?

for 20 years could pay out at the start. If we go on living longer, you could find that at review you are offered more cover or a lower premium. If it goes the other way and life expectancy goes down - perhaps because of another Aids-type epidemic for example - then you could find ful if you have young children yourself having to pay more.

If you want to play safe, go for guaranteed rates. Whatever you decide is right for you, it pays to shop around, or to get an independent financial adviser to do so for you.

For a list of financial ---Promotion on 0117 971 1177. usually every five years or so . Andy Couchanon is publishing

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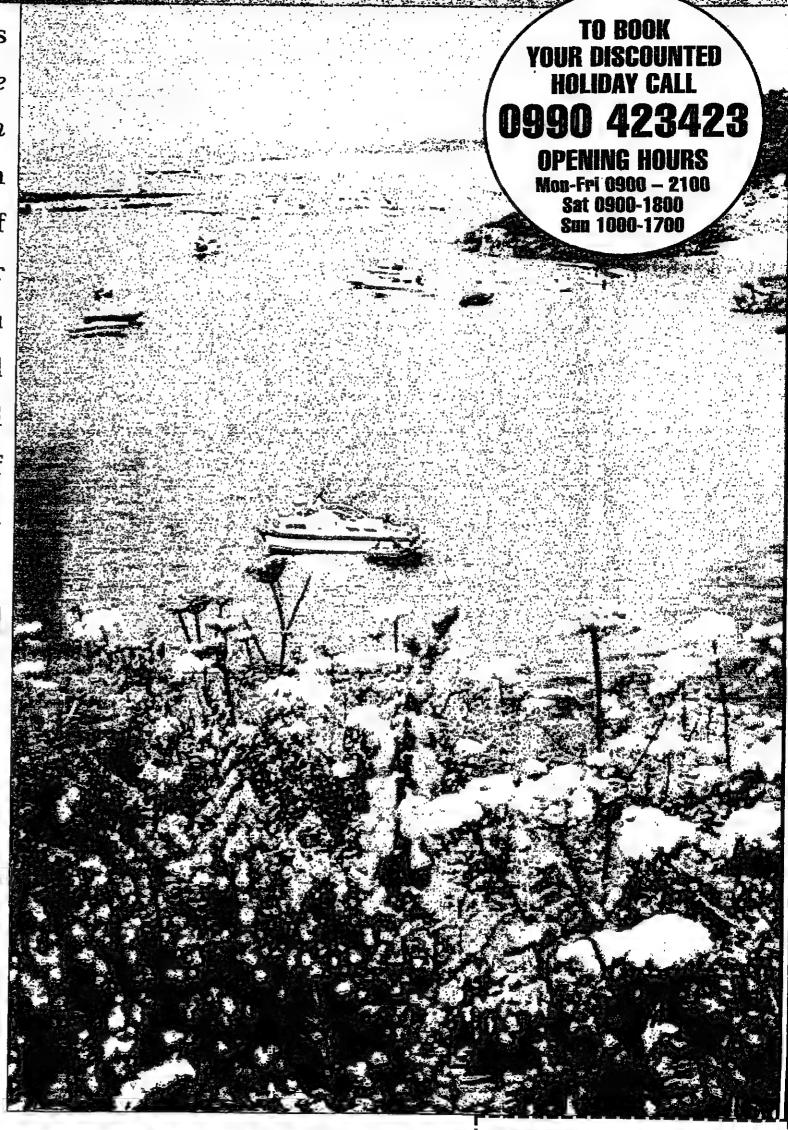
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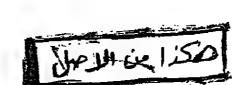
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By Ros Byam Sha

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DESIGN LINE

ligh It never felt like this before SIX OF THE BEST MAIL ORDER CATALOGUES

Felt may be the oldest fabric known to man but it's also hip, happening, and all the rage with style gurus and top designers. And it's much cheaper than cashmere. By Dominic Lutyens

nly the most gullible yle slaves, surely, iell for that hip interiors fad, "stealth wealth". You know, sumption in the shape of cushions and throws in such unassumingly muted colours you barely notice they're made of cashmere or suede. But who can be bothered to affect the look, let alone afford it? Far better to opt instead for that equally tactile, humbler and, let's face it, more affordable fabric creeping into homes and wardrobes right now - felt

If felt is humbler than other fabrics it's not simply because it's cheaper. It's iço usually invisible, though ubiquifous: it's used as the underlay for carpets and piano keys. The highest profile it's likely to have enjoyed is as coloured felt-tip pens and - who could forget? - hours-of-fun Fuzzy Felt.

Felt's lowly status surely derives too, from the fact that, traditionally, it has been put to primarily practical use Since time immemorial, nomadic tribes in central and western Asia have depended on it as a means of insulation in their felt yerts and blanket coats, or kepeneks.

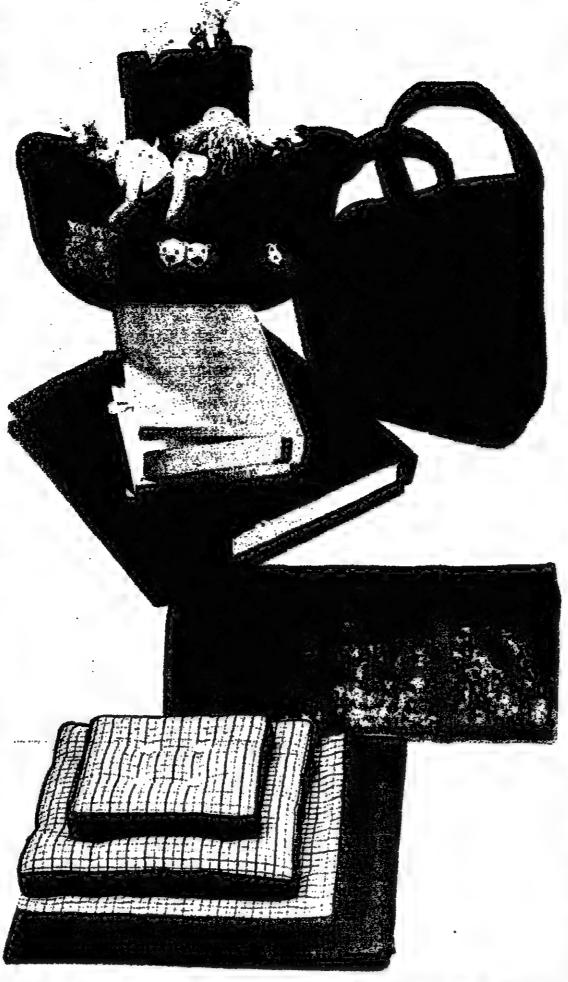
Then there's the fact that feltmaking is a crude, basic process. The oldest fabric known to man, felt is made by the simplest of means; when wool fibres (these can come straight off a sheep's back) are rubbed together in the presence of heat and moisture, they mat and bond. Yet felt's very earthiness has, over the years, inspired many a designer at the craftsy end of the murket.

Annie Sherburne, who began mak-ing felt rugs in 1982, when the fabric held little appeal, talks up its ecological qualities. "It's a renewable re-source - as long as there are sheep, we'll have felt." Heather Belcher, who makes hand-rolled felt cushions (from £85), on sale at Heal's from the end of March, says: "I love felt's primal qualities, which suggest warmth and protection." And Asta Barrington prides herself on hand-stitching and handdyeing her throws and cushions with felted wool fringes (available from London shops The Cross, Browns and Designers Guild).

Victoria Brown, meanwhile, who makes décorative wall hangings (from £100) using layers of fleece, on sale at Contemporary Applied Arts, is fasci-nated by the "possibilities of layering colour within the fabric to achieve mysterious colours which appear as a ploom' on the surface of the felt".

So much for its folksy pedigree – hip urbanites are warming to it, too. Super-urbane interiors glossy The World of Interiors recently featured an article on (appliqué-free) felt. Antwerp-based fashion label, AF Vandervorst, is currently cutting a swathe with its idiosyncratic felt clothing. while London-based Rolf Sachs produces, among other things, a witty (£20) felt wine cooler, available from chic London shop Bowles & Linares.

Due in all probability to the Nimeties cross-pollination of fashion and interiors across Europe, metropolitan designers from both fields often share the



From the top: Noah's Ark, from £39.95, Shaker; Heather Belcher's small grey hag, £50, Mint (0171-224 4406); Hive notebooks, from £50, Mission; Rolf Sach's floor runner, £300, Bowles & Linares; felted cashmere cushions, £84 and £105, and throw, £178, Pierre Frey

same influences. AF Vandervorst and Sachs, for example, are both inspired by felt-obsessed artist Joseph Beuys.

"Felt keeps liquids at a constant temperature, so Sachs' cooler keeps wine that's been chilled cool for ages,' says Sharon Bowles, of Bowles & Linares, which also stocks a nifty ownlabel, felt cafetiere cosy. Another Sachs design is an army blanket-grey floor runner (£300). "It's fantastic for bedrooms," swears Bowles.

If you thought Beuys an unlikely mentor for felt designers, how about design company Hive's veneration for that godfather of conceptual art, Marcel Duchamp?

Hive's designers, Monica Platkows ki and Mark Dyson, have come up with a felt chair cover made of a thick slab of industrial felt which slips over a timber armature or stands on its own as a decorative sculpture. Hive's more practical offerings are available from London gallery Mission: ultra-simple porridge-coloured or donkey-brown notebooks encased in blanket-thick felt, which come with carrying handles (from £50) and a cream felt pail (£45), which can be used as a bucket bag or smart wastepaper basket,

German designer Angela Hauser also touts minimalist, urban-chic felt accessories, notably a hotwater bottle with a grey cover wittily stamped with a red cross, tailor-made for those determined not to let flu cramp their style (£29). These, along with similarly swanky slippers and egg cosies, sell at the cult London shop, Egg. Craftiness and artiness aside, felt

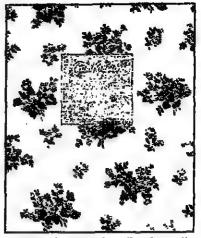
is beginning to cater to every taste, from the ultra-classic to the hyperkitsch. French company Pierre Frey offers a super-deluxe throw in felted cashmere (£178). The General Trading Company stocks Nathalie Hambro's Ref H tote bag (£175), which incorporates stylish rivets, and comes in Chinese lacquer red, indigo or grey. A number of other London stores flog felt. too: Artisan sells - very monastic chic this - a curtain tassel in felted wool with a contrasting jute tieback (£18 for the two), Mulberry tattersal felt cushions with a suede trim (£89), and Liberty grey felt and flannel cushions (from £59). Aero even stocks keyrings dangling wedges of Gruyère cheese in yellow felt (£4.50).

Looking ahead, in the autumn, Paperchase will stock felt-covered photo albums, notebooks and address books. In the meantime, you might want to include a child, or for that matter yourself, with Shaker's felt Noah's ark (from £39.95). We're talking Fuzzy Felt in 3D, and then some. What could be better than that?

Stockists: Aero (0171-351 0511); Artisan (0171-498 3979); Bowles & Linares (0171-229 9886); Browns (0171-514 0020); Contemporary Applied Arts Gallery (0171-436 2344); The Cross (0171-727 6760); Designers Guild (0171-351 5775); Egg (0171-235 9315); General Trading Company (0171-730 0411); Heal's (0171-636 1666); Hive (0171-261 9791); Liberty (0171-734 1234); Mission (0171-792 4633); Mulberry (0171-491 3900); Pierre Frey (0171-376 5599); Shaker (0171-935 9461)



Products with minimum environmental impact from clothing to lip balm and fridges, Natural Collection (01225



Cheerful chintz fabrics, oilcloths, wallpaper and bags of accessories, Cath Kidston (0171-221 4000 *)



Insect Lore Europe's catalogue teems with more than enough games and insect life to hold any budding entomologist's attention (01908 200 794 *)





Jolly, bright and practical woollen rugs, cushions and throws, Melin Tregwynt (01348 891 644 *)



Fresh and funky homewares for the nursery to the home office - lingering quite a while in the kitchen en route. Grimes & Co (00 353 1667 5627 *)

CHECK IT OUT

FED UP with trainsing round stores looking for an end-of-sale bargain? You whild have been wasting your time as you can buy a sofa or bed through mail order catalogues for considerably less than the "full price" store items. And their year-round sales mean you don't have to make an impulse buy you may later regret.

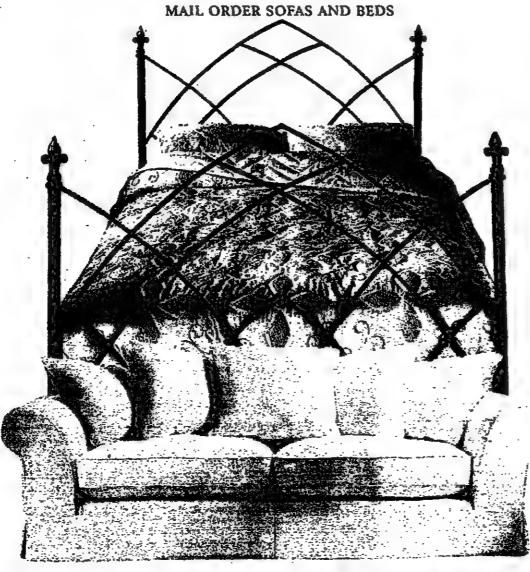
Small ads are full of sofas and wrought iron beds for around the £300 mark (expect to pay at least double in the high street), but can you trust

the quality? Sofa Workshop Direct is the mail order arm of its bespoke, high street stable mate, Sofa Workshop. The former advertises sofas for just over £300, the latter sells custom-made models from £599. The mail order sofa is cheaper, as it is only available in a limited range of fabrics and styles, the cuspion interiors are standard, and it's guaranteed for three instead of 10 years for the custom-made version. that you see in the brochure is what you get, factory born and bred.

You also have the advantage of a 21day money back guarantee if you change your mind after delivery, as long as the furniture is returned in mint condition. "We do have some returns, but it's generally because the sofa is too big for the room, or the colour didn't match the decor," says Sofa Workshop Direct managing

director, Euan Kelway-Bamber. The company is aware that its showroom, alongside its factory in Wales, has helped customers make their final decision. "People like the fabric samples they are sent in the post, but something holds them back. There's a general misapprehension that anything mail order is cheap and nasty but they're always pleas-antly surprised at the quality they are

getting for the price." Low overheads and limited choice



Wrought-iron Gothic double bed, £225, Cannock Direct (01543 462 500 +); Coniston three-seater sofa in natural, with washable covers, £469, Sofa Workshop Direct (01443 238 699 *)

give the mail order manufacturer the edge on price. As does furniture that can be paid for on delivery, instead of weeks in advance.

There's nothing like a good sales pitch to get customers rushing to place their order. Special deals from "cancelled orders" seem to run and run.

Cannock Direct is currently having a "factory clearance" of double wrought-iron beds in a choice of three styles for £245 each, including delivery. But how can you gauge the quality of a mail order bed? Fabric samples are easy to view by post, but assessing an iron bed is a bit more difficult.

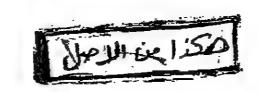
The Handcrafted Bed Company sends customers metal samples in any one of the 12 finishes they produce. Marketing director Jacqueline Hughes says a well-designed brochure increases sales. "Mail order is becoming more acceptable, but you can't expect to sell stock from scrappy line drawings." A recent client survey showed that 40 per cent of their customers are professionals with a high disposable income and limited time for shopping.

Seductive magazine-style directories devoted to interiors are a far cry from the big-book catalogues full of underwear and nylon bedspreads. Most firms also have 24-hour order lines and websites to make the customer's life even easier. Some people just haven't got the time to struggle round the shops any more.

The high street stores know that they cannot be left behind. Many now offer a mail order facility: convenient it may be, but it's not necessarily for the bargain hunter.

FIONA BRANDHORST

Sofa Workshop Direct (01443 238 699 +), www.sofaworkshopdirect.co.uk, Cannock Direct (01543 462 500 *), 101010.connockgate.uk.com; Handcrafted Bed Company (0115 965 6575 +)



neve.

Waxing lyrical about the light

Once an emergency light source, now a top home accessory - the candle comes into its own. By Ros Byam Shaw

been this popular since the dark, cold nights of the miners' strikes. Then it was a matter of shallow, tuke warm baths by the light of a couple of stubs stuck on saucers. Today it's a matter of style. Flick through any of the design magazines - candles have migrated from the back of the kitchen drawer and the formal dinner setting to the mantelpiece, the hearth and the coffee table. There are scented candles, floating candles, garden flares and night-lights. Shops like Angelic sell nothing but candles. Price's Patent Candle Company has opened gift shops. People give them as presents instead of soap or flowers.

Smartest and most desirable of all are church candles, plain, cream, natural, a fashionable blend of the sensual and the minimal. Pillar versions are particularly covetable. These are candles fit for cathedrals, designed to burn slowly with an even flame, emitting a faint whiff of monastic beeswax.

Sad to say, not all so-called church however big, fat and creamy, contain not a smidgen of beeswax. Far from burning with pious dignity, they make a fuss about it, smoking and spluttering, and disappearing with unseemly haste. While even the finest candles drip and gutter in a draught, badly made ones do it anyway, producing Seventies wine barstyle stalactites and stalagmites of beaded wax. Pillar candles are particularly vulnerable to unsightly distortions. If the wick is not sufficiently absorbent, a pillar candle will burn down its middle, leaving wobbly walls of unburnt wax which obscure the flame and spoil the image. Before you know it, your clean, simple, late-Nineties icon has melted to form waxy sculptures like something nasty from a Dali poster.

It was with these impostors in mind that brother and sister Elizabeth Carruth and Simon Tyler of E & S Churchill took up the challenge to make the perfect church candle. They are far too modest to pronounce their products "perfect", though customers say they are nearas-dammit - glossy with an almost luminous sheen, a pale golden colour, honey-scented and engineered to burn with almost 100 per cent efficiency, given ideal conditions. Clients who make repeat orders can even benefit from a virtually bespoke service. The new bar/restaurant/gallery at 291 Hackney Rd. London E2 - appropriately enough, a deconsecrated church burns their pillar candles with wicks



Molten wax is poured by hand from a tin jug into the waiting pre-warmed candle moulds

specially adjusted to compensate for the ecclesiastical draughts.

Back at the experimental stage, Elizabeth and Simon's first priority was to get the mixture of waxes right. In the heyday of the great monasteries, monks made candles using pure beeswax from their dipping long cotton wicks into vats of melted wax until they achieved the desired size. At a time when all but the very wealthy had to rely on rush lights and tapers, which burned animal fats and were extremely smelly and inefficient, the church candle was a huxury. It was also highly symbolic - a light in

the darkness of a sinning world. At some stage, the beeswax itself took on symbolic significance. One

story is that bees were absent from

the Garden of Eden and so escaped the taint of sin. Another - too charming to dismiss - is that medieval biologists thought that bees reproduced by immaculate conception. For whatever reason, the beeswax content of a church candle came to signify purity.

Most churches have ceased to inaist on any beeswax content. Charles Farris, a division of Prices. which has a virtual monopoly as suppliers of candles in this country, still make some candles by hand. These contain up to 25 per cent beeswax. Their machine-made church candles contain 10 per cent. According to manager Alan Matthews, only the "staunch old-timers" of the Roman Catholic church continue to request 25 per cent beeswax.

Unbleached beeswax makes a candle smell good, lends it a delicious shade of pale sunshine, and burns well. Despite its expense, Simon and Elizabeth decided their candles should contain 30 per cent beeswax. It arrives in their tiny, leanto workshop, looking for all the world like yellow lentils. They mix. it with stearine; a palm oil derivative, and paraffin wax, melting their ingredients to a golden liquid in two Baby Burco boilers which slurp and

steam continuously as they work. The only other component of a candle is the wick. E & S Churchill use two types of wick, both cotton, plaited or square braided. They are supplied by Yorkshire rope and braid makers, WR Outhwaite & Son. The number of individual strands

in a wick determine its absorbency. Adding or subtracting a few of these tiny strands can make the difference ween a candle that drips furiously and one that hardly drips at all. More than this, a wick must card as it burns to ensure that its tip will burn off in the hottest part of the flame. To achieve this curl, the plait or braid of a wick is always woven asymmetrically, with a few extra strands in one of the threads.

After being cut to length, wicks are disped in molten wax to ensure that one end will be stiff enough to poke through the hole at the bottom. of the mould, and then whisked outside the workshop where they are swung back and forth to shake off the EXCESS WEX.

The glass candle moulds are

made locally, by a glassmaker who specialises in making test-tubes. The smaller dinner candie-size moulds sit in holes drilled through a workbench. The wicks are dropped in and manoeuvred through the small hole at the bottom of the mould which is then plugged by a blob of gardener's putty which also holds the end of the wick in place. The other end of the wick is wound round a small metal rod and secured with a clothes peg. Now the moulds are ready to receive the molten wax which Elizabeth scoops from a. E & S Churchill candles are sup-

Baby Burco with a tin jug before pouring it carefully into each mould. Even though she has pre-warmed the moulds with a fan heater balanced on a cardboard box, the wax

begins to set almost immediately,

clouding from the bottom upwards. While the wax is hardening, the candies need constant attention to ensure that no air bubbles are formed as the liquid shrinks and solidifies. This is the stage they refer to as "wick-wiggling", an entirely selfexplanatory technique and essential to the production of a good candle. As the wax settles, the mould needs topping up and, with the last wiggle, zabeth must ensure the wick is

hanging straight and centrally. Fatter candles are made in moulds that sit on the bench top where a wooden frame has been constructed to hold the wicks in place. These larger candles need more drastic treatment than a bit of wick wiggling. As they set, Elizabeth continually pokes deep into them with a wooden stick, again ensuring that all air bubble are released.

Once the wax has set, the dinner candles, still in their moulds, are put in the freezer for about half an hour to ease their release from the mould.

In the heyday of the monasteries, the candle represented light in the darkness of a sinning world

They slip out, shiny and unblem-ished, ready for finishing. From this point until sale, no one touches the surface of the candle. Elizabeth handles them with a satin petticoat as she smoothes off their ends against a hot iron, or lifts them by their wicks for packing. They are pristine, smooth as silk - perfect.

The workshop may be tiny, the equipment unsophisticated, but E & Churchill are turning out and selling more than 300 handmade candles a week. Moreover, the small scale of their business means that they can make candles of any size to order (although one-offs are unlikely to be economic).

Their next project is a candle made from 100 per cent beeswax. The prototype has been a success - in fact they rave about it. It doesn't has an amazing aroma. It will be expensive, they say, but then perfection always has its price.

plied direct from Camden Lock Market (West Yard) on Saturdays and Sundays, Spitaifields Market on Sundays, Greenwich Market on Saturdays and Sundays, and by mail order (0171-739 2684)

Snap away to your heart's content and never buy a film again; oh the joy of going digital. By Tif Hunter

The techie way to take a pic

AS A recent arrival to the iMac age. I am wedded to the idea of digital technology being easy to use, straight out of the box.

These days we're all conversant with taking snaps on anything from tirrowaway cameras to state-of-theart SLRs. But how easy is it to pick up a digital camera and take decent pictures? If you're able to play computer games or visit the Internet, then you really shouldn't have that much of a problem, and the idea of creating (possibly also manioulating) and then printing your own pictures without having to ferry the film to a photo shop to be processed is attractive. And there is a huge choice out there, ranging from entry-level £100 cameras to advanced pieces of equipment costing more than £5,000.

The cameras we have reviewed cost between £350 and £650. The price pretty much determines the quality of the final picture. Where they quote resolution, the higher the numbers (eg 1280x1024), the sharper your enlargements.

All the cameras give you choices about taking pictures at various quality settings, and this controls the number of images you can store; fewer at high quality, more at basic quality. Storage is on a memory card, which may be between two and eight megabytes. But the beauty is that you have an instant display from the screen on the camera's back; if you don't like what you've taken you can dump it. On all these cameras -except the Kodak - the bonus of the screen is the ability to view a live image and to compose without look-

ing through the viewfinder The cameras come with a variety of extras: manuals, cables to connect to the television and computer and CD-roms with useful software.

700 put all the software on one CD-



Focused: photograph taken by the Fuji MX-700, shutter speed: 1/8 sec; aperture: 23.5

others. Nikon made life simple by providing a single sheet of paper with all the camera's functions explained and put the boring stuff on to a CD-

rom for reference when necessary. There's one other aspect of buying a new toy: style. Here the Fuji MX-700 wins hands down. It is small and perfectly for med to go in a pocket and comes with funky controls and displays. I wasn't so keen on the looks I liked the fact that the Fuji MX- of the Nikon Coolpix 900, but its swivel lens is a brilliant concept, rom instead of two or more, like the allowing you to shoot over people's

heads in a crowd and see what you're taking on an LCD screen.

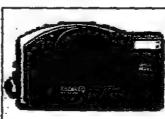
The Olympus Camedia C840L is a neat little camera, and I liked the sliding cover, which protects the lens when not in use. The Kodak DC210 plus is hardly a design icon, but the

controls are clear and simple to use. The Camedia's controls are not intuitive and the symbols by each button are rather obscure. The Fuji makes setting up before taking a picture great fun with electronic bleeps and flashing lights, but it

offers too many options. Also, like the Camedia, the MX700 has a digital zoom, which is not really a zoom at all. You either get wide angle or tele-

photo; nothing in between Both the Coolpix 900 and the DC210 plus have optical zooms. giving many more framing cotions. The Coolpix, although not a thing of beauty handles easily and gives superb results.

The writer is a practising advertising photographer



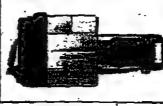
Kodak DC210 plus (cE380) Pro: easy to use, optical zoom Con: no live screen image



Olympus Camedia C840L (£425) Pro: good lens, clear monitor, sliding lens cover Con: controls difficult to master



Faji MIX-700 (c£450) Pro: pocket size, style object Con: digital, not optical zoom



Nikon Coolpix 900 (cf620) Pro: excellent image quality Con: strange looks

DESIGN LINES

TOAD HALL and Eeyore's field of thistles; Mrs Tiggywinkle's kitchen, piled high with clean washing - the notion of home in children's literature is a particularly powerful one, as characters are often defined by where they live. The Architectural Gallery's spring season opens with an exhibition focusing on literary houses, from Dickens and Beatrix Potter, Lucy Boston and AA Milne. A related exhibition, Through a Child's Eye, investigates how modern children see their own homes. Child's Eye: Houses in Children's Books is at the Architecture Gallery, 66 Portland Place, London W1 (0171-307 3641) until 13 March, Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm. Through a Child's Eye runs from 20 Mar-1 May. Admission free

WANT TO sit about in style? Search out Sitting on the Edge, a lavishly illustrated volume of 190 chairs, couches and other modernist seating furniture and objects culled from the collection of Michael and Gabrielle Boyd, published next month by Rizzoli International (£26.95). Michael Boyd provides the introduction, Aaron Betsky, .. Paola Antonelli and Philippe Garner contribute essays. The book

accompanies an exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in San Francisco, which: showcases great modern masters including Le Corbusier. Peter Behrens. Marco Zanuso and Otto .

CUTHBERT Brodrick, architect and Francophile who retired to live near Paris. was active in his profession for only 25 years, from 1845 to 1870, his work, extravagantly over-the-top and largely influenced by Continental models, inspired much of the municipal architecture in this country as well as parts of the Empire and the United States. Today he's probably best known for the baroque splendour of the Grand Hotel at Scarborough, described by Henry-Russell Hitchcock as "the climax of English Second Empire", but a current exhibition at the Riba Heinz Gallery will provide a new introduction to his work. Towers and Colonnades: the architecture of Cuthbert Brodrick is at the Heinz Gallery, 21 Portman Square, London W1 (0171-307 3628) until 6 Mar and at Leeds City Art Gallery, 17 Apr-20 June

RESEARCH INTO the history of design and style has just been made a whole lot easier with the opening of a new bookshop and gallery specialising in modern out-of-print and rare books, magazines and prints nn architecture, art, design, graphics and photography. Book Art and Architecture

is conveniently near the new British

Library. Book Art and Architecture is at 12 Woburn Bloomsbury London WC1 (0171-387 5006)

competition design for the Corn Exchange (unexecuted) by Cuthbert Broderick

SHOPPING

It never felt like this before MAIL ORDER CATALOGUES MAIL ORDER CATALOGUES

style gurus and top designers. And it's much cheaper than cashmere. By Dominic Lutyens

nly the most gullible fell for that hip interiors fad, "stealth wealth". You know, sumption in the shape of cushions and throws in such unassumingly muted colours you barely notice they're made of cashmere or suede. But who can be bothered to affect the look, let alone afford it? Far better to opt instead for that equally tactile, humbler and, let's face it, more affordable fabric creeping into homes and wardrobes right now - felt.

If felt is humbler than other fabrics it's not simply because it's cheaper. It's go usually invisible, though ubiquitous: it's used as the underlay for carpets and piano keys. The highest profile it's likely to have enjoyed is as coloured felt-tip pens and – who could forget? – hours-of-fun Fuzzy Felt.

Felt's lowly status surely derives, too, from the fact that, traditionally, it has been put to primarily practical use. Since time immemorial, nomadic tribes in central and western Asia have depended on it as a means of insulation, in their felt yerts and blanket coats, or kepeneks.

Then there's the fact that feltmaking is a crude, basic process. The oldest fabric known to man, felt is made by the simplest of means: when wool fibres (these can come straight off a sheep's back) are rubbed together in the presence of heat and moisture, they mat and bond. Yet felt's very earthiness has, over the years, inspired many a designer at the craftsy end of the market.

Annie Sherburne, who began mak-ing felt rugs in 1982, when the fabric held little appeal, talks up its ecological qualities. "It's a renewable resource - as long as there are sheep, we'll have felt." Heather Belcher, who makes hand-rolled felt cushions (from £85), on sale at Heal's from the end of March, says: "I love felt's primal qualities, which suggest warmth and protection." And Asta Barrington prides herself on hand-stitching and handdyeing her throws and cushions with felted wool fringes (available from London shops The Cross, Browns and Designers Guild).

Victoria Brown, meanwhile, who

makes decorative wall hangings (from £100) using layers of fleece, on sale at Contemporary Applied Arts, is fasci-nated by the "possibilities of layering colour within the fabric to achieve mysterious colours which appear as a bloom' on the surface of the felt".

So much for its folksy pedigree – hip anites are warr Super-urbane interiors glossy The World of Interiors recently featured an article on (appliqué-free) felt. Antwerp-based fashion label, AF Vandervorst, is currently cutting a swathe with its idiosyncratic felt clothing, while London-based Rolf Sachs produces, among other things, a witty (£20) felt wine cooler, available from chic London shop Bowles & Linares.

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DESIGNANE

Due in all probability to the Nineties cross-pollination of fashion and interiors across Europe, metropolitan designers from both fields often share the



From the top: Noah's Ark, from £39.95, Shaker; Heather Belcher's small grey bag, £50, Mint (0171-224 4406); Hive notebooks, from £50, Mission; Rolf Sach's floor runner, £300, Bowles & Linares; felted cashmere cushions, £84 and £105, and throw, £178, Pierre Frey

same influences. AF Vandervorst and Sachs, for example, are both inspired by felt-obsessed artist Joseph Beuys.

"Felt keeps liquids at a constant temperature, so Sachs' cooler keeps wine that's been chilled cool for ages, says Sharon Bowles, of Bowles & Linares, which also stocks a nifty, ownlabel, felt cafetière cosy. Another Sachs design is an army blanket-grey floor runner (£300). "It's fantastic for bedrooms," swears Bowles.

if you thought Benys an unlikely mentor for felt designers, how about design company Hive's veneration for that godfather of conceptual art, Marcel Duchamp?

Hive's designers, Monica Platkowski and Mark Dyson, have come up with a felt chair cover made of a thick slab of industrial felt which slips over a timber armature or stands on its own as a decorative sculpture. Rive's more practical offerings are available from London gallery Mission: ultra-simple porridge-coloured or donkey-brown notebooks encased in blanket-thick felt, which come with carrying handles (from £50) and a cream felt pail (£45), which can be used as a bucket bag or smart wastepaper basket.

German designer Angela Hauser also touts minimalist, urban-chic felt accessories, notably a hotwater bottle with a grey cover wittily stamped with a red cross, tailor-made for those determined not to let flu cramp their style (£29). These, along with similarly swanky slippers and egg cosies, sell at the cult London shop, Egg.

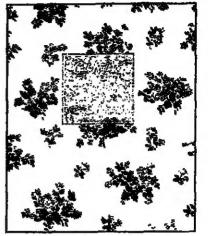
Craftiness and artiness aside, felt is beginning to cater to every taste, from the ultra-classic to the hyperkitsch. French company Pierre Frey offers a super-deluxe throw in felted cashmere (£178). The General Trading Company stocks Nathalie Hambro's Ref H tote bag (£175), which incorporates stylish rivets, and comes in Chinese lacquer red, indigo or grey. A number of other London stores flog felt, too: Artisan sells - very monastic chic this - a curtain tassel in felted wool with a contrasting jute tieback (£18 for the two), Mulberry tattersal felt cushions with a suede trim (£89), and Liberty grey felt and flannel cushions (from £59). Aero even stocks keyrings dangling wedges of Gruyère cheese in yellow felt (£4.50).

Looking ahead, in the autumn. Paperchase will stock felt-covered photo albums, notebooks and address books. In the meantime, you might want to indulge a child, or for that matter yourself, with Shaker's felt Noah's ark (from £39.95). We're talking Fuzzy Felt in 3D, and then some. What could

Stockists: Aero (0171-351 0511); Artisan (0171-498 3979); Bowles & Linares (0171-229 9886); Browns (0171-514 0020); Contemporary Applied Arts Gallery (0171-436 2344); The Cross (0171-727 6760); Designers Guild (0171-351 5775); Egg (0171-235 9315); General Trading Company (0171-730 0411); Heal's (0171-636 1666); Hive (0171-261 9791); Liberty (0171-734 1234); Mission (0171-792 4633); Mulberry (0171-491 3900); Pierre Frey (0171-376 5599): Shaker (0171-935 9461)



tal impact from clothing to lip balm and fridges, Natural Collection (01225

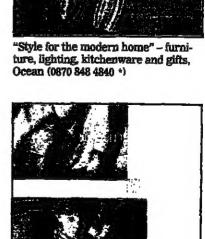


Cheerful chintz fabrics, oilcloths, wallpaper and bags of accessories, Cath Kidston (0171-221 4000 *)

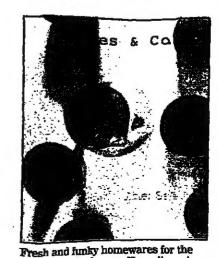


Insect Lore Europe's catalogue teems with more than enough games and insect life to hold any budding entomologist's attention (01908 200 794 *)



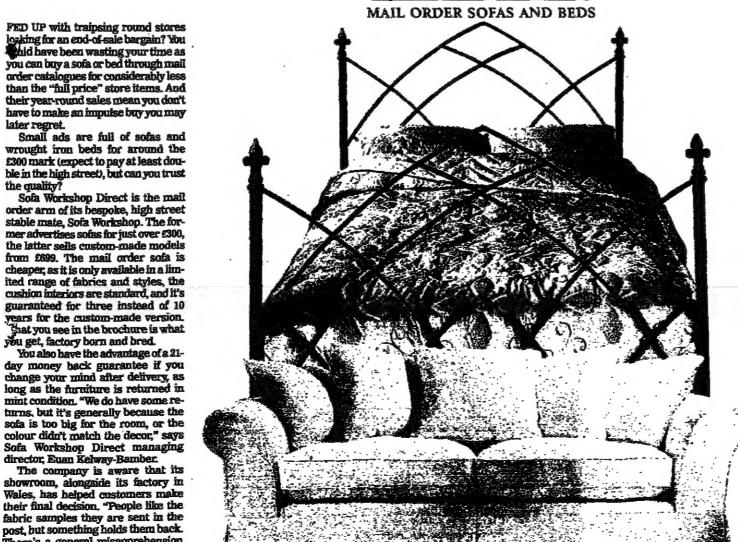


Jolly, bright and practical woollen rugs, cushions and throws, Melin Tregwynt (01348 891 644 *)



mursery to the home office - lingering quite a while in the kitchen en route, Grimes & Co (00 353 1667 5627 *)

CHECK IT OUT



Wrought-iron Gothic double bed, £225, Cannock Direct (01543 462 500 +); Coniston three-seater sofa in natural, with washable covers, £469, Sofa Workshop Direct (01443 238 699 *)

give the mail order manufacturer the edge on price. As does furniture that can be paid for on delivery, instead of weeks in advance.

There's nothing like a good sales pitch to get customers rushing to place their order. Special deals from "cancelled orders" seem to run and run.

Cannock Direct is currently having a "factory clearance" of double wrought-iron beds in a choice of three styles for £245 each, including delivery. But how can you gauge the quality of a mail order bed? Fabric samples are easy to view by post, but assessing an iron bed is a bit more difficult.

The Handcrafted Bed Company sends customers metal samples in any one of the 12 finishes they produce. Marketing director Jacqueline Hughes says a well-designed brochure increases sales. "Mail order is becoming more acceptable, but you can't expect to sell stock from scrappy line drawings." A recent client survey showed that 40 per cent of their customers are professionals with a high disposable income and limited time for shopping.

Seductive magazine-style directories devoted to interiors are a far cry from the big-book catalogues full of underwear and nylon bedspreads. Most firms also have 24-hour order lines and websites to make the customer's life even easier. Some people just haven't got the time to struggle round the shops any more.

The high street stores know that they cannot be left behind. Many now offer a mail order facility: convenient it may be, but it's not necessarily for the bargain hunter.

FIONA BRANDHORST

Sofa Workshop Direct (01443 238 699 *), www.sofaworkshopdirect.co.uk; Cannock Direct (01543 462 500 *), www.connockgaie.uk.com; Handcrafted Bed Company (0115 965 6575 *)

Wales, has helped customers make their final decision. "People like the fabric samples they are sent in the post, but something holds them back. There's a general misapprehension that anything mail order is cheap and nasty, but they're always pleasantly surprised at the quality they are getting for the price." Low overheads and limited choice

you get, factory born and bred.

director, Euan Kelway-Bamber.

MOTORING

Big brother is watching Hi-tech ways to

After the success of the Shogun, Mitsubishi's new 4x4 has a lot to live up to. By Roger Bell

arring a major recession, sales of 4x4s in Britain will comfortably exceed 100,000 this year. And that's not counting "utility" vehicles, such as the Land Rover Defender, or the various all-terrain pickups. What was once largely a wellie-brigade niche market, accounting for fewer than 5,000

*THE INDEPENDENT ROAD TEST

registrations annually, has evolved into a mainstream one.

Land Rover's Freelander is top of the pops, followed by its Discovery stablemate. Bully for Rover: it needs the cash and the kudos. In third place, confirming that newcomers tend to expand the market rather than dent the establishment, is Honda's CRV. Toyota's Rav 4 was fourth, Vauxhall's Frontera fifth and that old stalwart, the Mitsubishi Shogun, sixth.

However, the position of the respected Shogun, which has been at the heart of Britain's loony romance with 4x4s since the early Eighties, could now be threatened by an in-house rival.

High-waisted and low-roofed, the new Challenger is not everyone's idea of perfect wheels. Mitsubishi's contention that it has great street cred ("just the sort of distinctive vehicle to have on the driveway") overlooks certain innate 4x4 disadvantages, not least that of performance-blunting weight. Economy isn't a strength, either. Nor. by luxury saloon standards, is ride

on engine and equipment, the fussy diesel. If price and economy Challenger splits the Freelander are not your priorities, it is the and the Discovery on price. Billed model to have.

as a sports utility, it is seen by Mitsubishi more as an off-road estate, rather than the last word in mountain scramblers

Like the Shogun, it has part-time four-wheel drive (on Tarmac only the back wheels are driven), giant tyres, stilt-like ground clearance, highand low-ratio gears and huge towing muscle - all the attributes expected of a butch off-roader, even though they are rarely used.

So what makes the ornately toothy Challenger different? Not a lot. Being of modest stature and width, it will fit most garages and carparks, just like a normal estate. Rear legroom is also surprisingly generous. The high floor is a mixed blessing: it provides a lofty, over-thehedge view - good for safety and rubber-necking - at the expense of

Humping hefty luggage into the big boot calls for a winch, Getting in and out without soiling your clothes on the old-fashioned running board

is also tricky.
The Challenger's well-appointed cabin may be as welcoming in decor and finish as that of any uprange saloon, but it is not so comfortable. I could not fault the Challenger's excellent front seats, but its compromised suspension makes for a knobbly ride.

Although performance of the diesel version on test felt no more than adequate, the engine is impressively smooth, thanks to vibration-killing balancer shafts. It is the gearing that is flawed, with top being far too low for relaxed motorway cruising - at 70mph, it sounds as though you're stuck in third. The quicker, more expensive petrol V6, expected to be the comfort or agility.

At £20,000-£25,000, depending minority seller, is far quieter and more relaxed at speed than the



The Mitsubishi Challenger - great front seats do not a great 4x4 make

SPECIFICATIONS

RIVALS

Chrysler Jeep Cherokee 2.5td, from £19,520. US-built four cylinders, eight valves, two Cherokee (ninth best-selling 4x4 in UK last year) is that bit quicker than the Challenger but speed manual gearbox, high and is not so roomy. low ranges, two- and four-wheel

Land Rover Freelander 2.0di five-door, from £19,420. Britain's best-selling off-roader is not so roomy as the Challenger, but it's

quicker and more economical. Better off-road, too. Nissan Terrano 2.7tdi fivedoor, from £22,395. Terrano (11th best-selling last year) is pricey but good - if you can stand gawky looks.

lauxhall Frontera 2.5tds fivedoor, from £19,945. Looks like old Frontera, but much improved. Once second in 4x4 sales, could recover if reliability sorted.

avoid the jams

I'M LATE and it's the earlymorning rush hour on the southern section of the M25, a time and a place where it is essential to have up-to-date traffic information.

All over the country, more than 1:2 million motorists get caught up in jams every day. This congestion results in 2.7 million lost man hours and costs the economy some £129m. So alerting drivers about trouble ahead and steering them out of a jam is an area of research which is rapidly

developing in importance. Even the BBC has come up with a travel service which is set to revolutionise the way we get our travel information. But, for the time being, what are the options on a Friday morning?

The majority of in-car music systems are now equipped with Radio Data Signalling (RDS), which not only retunes your radio for the best reception in whatever broadcast area you are driving through, but also interrupts your tape, CD, or radio programme with the latest local travel bulletin. This morning, my RDS system introduces me to BBC Radio Kent with a warning about delays between junctions eight and nine on the M25. So an RDS radio is a pretty good first line of defence against traffic congestion, although there are

a number of other gadgets. Out of the corner of my eye I can see a flashing amber light. That must be my RAC Traffic Alert 1210. As a member of the RAC I can get the 1210 package for £19.99, which also includes a Nokia digital phone. The fittle black crucifix-shaped 1210 unit runs on three AAA batteries and has an array of lights pointing to all points of the

compass. It also beeps at you. If the light furthest from the centre comes on, it means that the hold-up is more than two junctions away, or eight to 12 miles on an A road. If the middle light comes on, then the problem is up to two junctions away, or four to eight miles. The the unit illuminates when the trouble is before the next junction, or up to four miles away on an A road. The lights also glow amber or red to signify delays of up to and beyond 25 minutes. The unit beeps three times when you join the network and the road ahead is clear, or five times if there is a problem up ahead.

The really clever part is when you use a Cellnet mobile phone. I did and it told me exactly where I was on the M25. It gave much more detailed information about the delay up ahead. By dialling 1, followed by the number of the motorway, in. this case 3 for M3, I got up-tothe-minute information for that route. Dialling 0 put me in touch with an RAC Traffic Information Adviser, who told me about alternative routes.

Working closely with the RAC

on all this is Traffic Master, the acknowledged market leader. The company has more than 7,000 sensors nationwide, which detect changes in vehicle speeds. When the average speed drops below 30mph, a signal is transmitted to Traffic Master's data centre and from there to vehicles equipped with one of its products.

The entry-level system is Traffic Master Freeway Priced at £79.99 plus an annual subscription charge of £24, it relays live traffic information. A lot more sophisticated is the YQ, at £149.99, with an annual subscription of £110, which features a screen display. It allows the user to call up local motorway areas and pinpoint traffic problems. Traffic Master systems can be found as standard equipment in certain production models.

Oracle, a voice-based system designed to feed traffic information through car radios, was first installed by Vauxhall in 1996 on top-of-the-range GLS, SRI and CDX Vectra models. This year, all Citroen Xantias have a similar Oracle system as standard.

Imagine, though, having an in-car system which not only tells you about traffic problems. but also guides you out of them. From March, that becomes a reality. The new Jaguar S-Type is the first car in the world to have a fully integrated, onboard satellite navigation system, combined with live traffic information provided by Traffic Master.

David Martell, the company's chief executive, says: "In the face of ever-increasing levels of congestion, on-board driver information systems incorporating 'intelligent' route guidance and traffic information will soon become

essential equipment. That was just the sort of equipment I needed to find the BBC's research and development complex, hidden in a south-London suburb. The BBC's Transport Protocol broadcasting a pilot travel information service on digital radio. Glyn Jones, managing editor, BBC Digital Radio, says: "TPEG is a personal travel service. It allows the BBC to broadcast more travel news than we could ever cram into the full 24 hours on a radio station, but your radio will sift it and only give you the traffic news that affects you."

It is RDS with knobs on, but at the moment the test broadcasts can only be picked up on digital radios, or certain in-car systems with expensive decoders. The BBC expects hardware manufacturers to latch onto TPEG and incorporate it into in-car navigation systems. So in the near future there will be no need to be stuck on the M25, or anywhere else for that matter. . JAMES RUPPERT 1

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Christmas comes but twice a year

Make, model and price:

from £20,365 on the road.

balancer shafts, 98bhp at

Mitsubishi Challenger 2.5TD,

Engine: 2477cc turbo-diesel,

4000rpm. Transmission: five-

90mph, 0-60mph in 18sec, fuel

drive. Performance: max speed

consumption 22.4mpg combined.

From March, number plates are to change every six months. What difference will it make? By James Ruppert

MARCH IS the new August. Really, it is. Well, that is according to the motor trade's brand new almanac. As from 1 March, all new cars will be sporting a T at the start of the registration number. However, if buyers wait until September, the T will be

replaced by a V. So should buyers wait for the secand letter? Will new and used cars become cheaper, or more expensive? Which will be the busier month: March or September? Could cars depreciate in value much iaster? This revamped twice-yearly registration system seems to raise a lot of important questions.

First of all, why the change? The Society of Motor Manufacturers good news. and Traders' (SMMT) official line is that the old 1 August registration system simply did not work.

"One change of letter a year puts enormous pressure on manufac-

spokesman says. "Around a quarter of all annual car sales are in August. So 500,000 new-car sales means 500,000 used-car trade-ins, which depresses car values."

It also meant that buyers were short-changed. They got less money for their part-exchange and there were doubts over some dealers' ability property to prepare so many new cars at once. Not only that, what was sold was almost obsolete stock, because manufacturers traditionally launch revised and better-equipped models in September and October to coincide with the Motor Show.

In theory then, the twin peaks of March and September should be

Manufacturers have been doing all they can to encourage buyers into S-registered cars and there have been some amazing deals with free insurance, servicing and finance turers to produce a huge slice of the packages. Around the country, year's output for one month," a clutches of delivery-mileage

vehicles, registered to boost sales

figures, are now up for grabs. World of Cars, in Suffolk, has a batch of S-plated Fords, with savings of more than £4,000 on 1999 Mondeos and Fiestas. Even so, car sales in January were down at 181,842 against 232,055 in January 1998, although that was a record year. According to Paul Everitt, the SMMT's head of policy and economics: "The January registrations reflect the current economic climate and anticipate the arrival of the T plate in March."
"This is a transition period at the

moment," says Paul Jarvis, managing editor of Glass's Guide, the trade's price-guide bible. "Consumers are only just becoming aware of the changes. However, we see March becoming the dominant month. The conditions are ideal for this, as Christmas debts have been settled and summer is coming.

"As for September, there will still

MOTORING

plate and we will be listing three price blips in our publication for January, March and September."

CAP. Glass's price-guide rivals. sees things differently. Ramesh Notra, economic analyst at CAP, says: "We are going to see very significant changes. For example, any-one who continues working on the assumption that spring time will be uniformly better than the previous year-end is in for a rude awakening."

CAP expects the September plate change to have more impact than March. It also believes that seasonal factors will put more downward pressure on used car prices in 1999, especially towards the end of the year. CAP also warns that two plate changes a year may lead to faster depreciation as the latest letter premium is lost twice

Consequently, buyers won't be so tempted to consider a change for the be a desire for the latest registration sake of a rapidly changing letter,

which may result in fewer new car sales. As a result, CAP predicts there is boom time ahead for cherished number plates: "Many private buyers who do not want their new cars going out of date twice as quickly will be tempted to buy these plates."

Tony Hill, who runs Elite Registrations - one of the country's largest cherished-number dealers says: "I haven't noticed a surge in demand because of the new system."

Obviously, everyone is on a steep learning curve. The dip in January new-car sales actually meant fewer part-exchanges and an unexpected rise in used-car values, as dealers could not find enough stock.

We will certainly know all the effects by the time the alphabetical system comes to end, with Yregistered cars in March 2001. After that, a whole new number-andregional-identifier plate will bring with it a whole new set of problems,

MY WORST CAR

A seasonal non-starter

WHEN I bought the Imp it was already very old, but all I could afford at the time. The dealer who sold it to me was very pleasant, or at least I thought he was. Unfortunately, this blue Sunbeam turned out to be a complete disaster.

These Imps had their engines in the rear and that meant no proper cooling and constant overheating, which in turn meant new gaskets and frequent rebuilds.

I remember on one occasion collecting my mother from school. The car started to lose power and in the rear-view mirror I could see red-hot metal spewing out of the back. I struggled to keep going in the traffic, changing down through the gears, but eventually the car came to a halt.

We just sat there, wondering what to do. Then a very nice man offered to push us to the roadside. We made it more difficult for him by staying in the car. We didn't think to get out at

The Imp was a seasonal car in that it overheated in the summer and refused to start at stop condensation getting into the engine by putting an oblong pillow I had bought from British Homes Stores into the engine bay. It would be soaking wet by the morning and occasionally ! would forget to take it out again,



The Sunbeam Imp: two years of hell for Helen Zahavi

. 41

and that would also help to bring the Sunbeam to an unscheduled halt.

in fact, water was a constant problem. The car had a serious leak, which let in lots of rainwater. I would be up to my ankles in water and would have to pull out all the carpets and

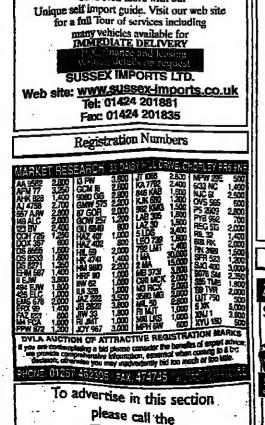
dry them out. Gradually, I learnt more about cars and bought exchange parts. A friend took me to a salvage yard for tyres. We would climb over mountains of thought that was how you if he ever did?

bought tyres. I only found out about tyre Helen Zaham's latest novel, specialists when I drove past one and got a puncture. Actually, I got three punctures while

garage - which could not have been a coincidence. I'm sure that they threw tacks out into the road

It was two years of hell with that car. The throttle cable snapped while I was overtaking which wasn't funny. That Sunbeam always cost me a lot of money and was either damp, or broken down, depending on the time of year. I couldn't sell it to a normal human being without feeling guilty, but I thought that a car dealer would all in the winter. I managed to them for the right ones. I be able to sort it out. I wonder

> Donna and the Fatman' is published by Anchor on 11 March, price £6.99. She was driving past this particular speaking to James Ruppert



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Hand over the keys and the survey details

New plans are afoot to put a greater burden of responsibility - and cost - on to people trying to sell their homes, to speed up the process and make it fairer all round. Let the vendor beware. By Penny Jackson



Sellers may be required to provide surveys, and details of all alterations and any structural problems

costs most of us nothing to out our homes on the market. We can sit back while it is valued and marketed, while the buyers pass through each stage en route to an exchange of contracts, clocking up expenses as they go.

1

No wonder Government proposals for the seller to pay for searches, surveys and the like have not been met with universal joy. But however valid the specific criticisms, few would argue that the time has come for selfers to play a more responsible role in the buying and selling process.

Indeed there has already been a quiet revolution in attitudes among estate agents and homeowners who want to see the balance redressed. These days vendors who delight in regaling their friends with stories of how they fooled their buyers are likely to being done, I took photographs of the draw only a wry smile. In practice, ties in the cavity wall. I did the same though, a seller's secrets are almost bound to be discovered, delaying the purchase, if not stopping it altogether.

It was the snail's pace of most sales. as well as the hazard of gazumping. review the system of house-buying. Since a great many sellers have a tendency to do nothing to facilitate a sale until an offer pops up, they are an obvious target for change.

Hugh Dunsmore-Hardy, chief executive of the National Association of Estate Agents, is of the opinion that the vendor should be far more responsible for providing information about the state of a property, even if it shifts the balance of cost from buyer to seller in the early stages of the process: "We must get away from the adversarial system based on the adage of coveat emptor."

There are those who need little perin Weymouth, Dorset, is one of a book. "While the double glazing was case a buyer was interested in how it

And far from concealing any prob-

moved and won't get agitated. I know what insurance companies are like."

He has, in the past, gone further than many sellers would want to and commissioned a building survey on a house he was selling. "We found a buyer immediately, who was delighted. It's ridiculous that one house can be surveyed numerous times. One I know that went to auction had 25 surveys done on it, all by the same firm." A survey is the most controversial

feature of any vendor's packet, Michael Day, a vice chairman of the Society for Valuers and Auctioneers. believes that it has more issues atsuasion. Patrick Barrington, who lives tached to it than first appear. "Will it really speed things up if a buyer growing number who keeps a record wants his own survey? What happens of anything done to his house in a log if a few sellers in a chain don't have one? Will lenders accept it? After all,

they will still need to do a valuation." Another concern is how dependable when we were insulating our roof, in it would be and what recourse buyers would have if a serious problem appeared in the house.

Certainly the reluctance of buyers lems, Barrington has recorded them. to commission surveys is hardly enthat prompted the Government to "I have pictures of cracks so that a couraging-closer to 25 per cent than so that when they come to sell they can gap between the best and the rest.

the 40 per cent quoted by the Government, according to Day. And only a third of those will opt for a detailed

But where estate agents strongly recommend a vendor's survey is on properties that need work. Guy Gibson of the surveyors and valuers with Hamptons International, says that if it is clear that a house needs a new roof, or certain repairs, its price will reflect that, and it will therefore become more saleable. He says: "The days when you have

building survey.

uninformed purchasers are gone. We should move towards providing a survey that serves both buyer and seller. It would have a shelf life and stay with the property for that period." At the very least, he says, a seller's to the purchaser on completion.

packet should include things like title deeds, local searches, planning permission, guarantees, building regulation approval and so on - all the owner's log book is not a new idea, but it has begun to catch on.

Knight Frank, the estate agent,

Jason Shillingford/DM

demonstrate that the house has been cared for. "If all the documentation is kept up to date, and the seller can provide a legal package, exchange of contracts need take no longer than five days," says Martin Lamb.

Whatever the Government decides, it is almost bound to make new demands of the seller. Some estate agencies intend to get a head start. Black Horse Agencies, now owned by Bradford & Bingley Building Society, this week announced plans for a new "fast move" service, which includes a pre-market survey a 95 per cent mortgage for buyers, insurance covering the sale's collapse, and a guarantee covering any structural faults not disclosed in the survey to be transferred

They expect the sale time to be halved. Estate agents are used to being criticised for doing little to earn their commission, but if sellers have time-consuming features of a sale. An to be ready with a packet for the purchaser, it is the agent who must oversee it. Could this be the answer to higher standards and a new professionalism? It will certainly widen the

STEPPING STONES

ONE COUPLE'S PROPERTY STORY



Chris and Andrea make a picture of domestic bliss

FEW BUYERS attain the fewer still get there without excessive mortgaging. Chris and Andrea Masters have achieved both over 30 years and four purchases, with a mortgage in the Eighties of just £2,000.

Their story starts in Bermuda, where they rented for three years which enabled them, on their return in 1971, to buy outright a 16th-century Herefordshire town house for £3,500. The house, while steeped in history, was also "on the flight path of local quarry lorries" and the experience prompted the Masters to build their own home in "the best spot we've ever lived in" - a quiet orchard behind a church on the edge of town.

The plot cost £2,000 and by doing the work themselves, and using reclaimed materials, Andrea and architect Chris kept building costs to £5.000. In 1974 they sold their town house for £7,000 and moved into their "experimental and unconventional home with too much glass", which Chris describes as "arousing mixed feelings" in the village.

By 1977 a family addition and declining workload saw Chris returning to college to finish his architectural training and also to "sit-out the building industry's major recession". They sold their self-build house for £15.000 and for £14.250 bought an end-of-terrace in Cheltenham: "It was a big contrast but we enjoyed being back in an urban environment and looking onto a street filled with lights and people." In 1980, Chris was

working for an architect but, tiring of routine, he decided to go it alone finding endless variety at his "drawing board, laying bricks or even on a roof". This led to him enlarging their own house in an unusual way: "We built an extraordinary staircase in

a tower on the gable end by slicing out a section from floor to roof." The addition made the house "delightful to live in" but added little value when the Masters sold in 1996 for £58,000.

They decided to move to France "where an English couple of modest means can afford a country house". Their purchase, La Cretouffiere, turned out to be not one but three houses and a collection of barns bought for £34,000 which Chris is currently renovating. The long harm has been turned into three holiday homes at a cost of around £20,000 and current work includes a swimming pool and an art gallery.

The Pays de la Loire is ideal for short breaks and the project has brought many visitors, enabling Chris and Andrea to "earn a modest income" from their beautiful home and all achieved without a mortgage. Chris estimates that the hamlet's value is now c£80,000, a "moderate return for the work involved", but he has many plans for further improve ments. And the future? 'Tm driven by challenges but I can't see myself in a French old peoples' home."

Those moves in brief 1971 - bought 16thcentury house for £3,500, sold for £7,000. 1974 - bought plot of land for £2,000 (built house for £5,000), sold for £15,000. 1977 - bought Cheltenham town house for £14,250, sold for £58,000. 1996 - bought French hamlet for £34,000, now worth around £80,000.

GINETTA VEDRICKAS

To contact La Cretouffière, call 0033 243 0800 20.

If you would like your moves to be featured write to: Nic Cicutti, Stepping Stones, One Canada Square, London E14 5DL. A prize of £100 will be awarded for the best story printed before 31 March

There's a lot going on down by the riverside

Developers are trying to meet the huge new demand for inner-city housing with an ambitious series of waterside properties to suit everyone. By Mary Wilson

riverbank home, but many of Britain's rivers and canals, which should provide some of the best locations for both residential and commercial units, have been allowed to fall into decay over the years.

However, with changing demo-graphics, people are looking more and more for inner-city living and with urban regeneration being at the forefront of our minds, derelict waterside sites are at long last being returned to the public domain.

The British Waterways Board, the K's largest navigation authority, owning some 2,000 miles of inland waters, is also active in the regeneration game. Last week the Government announced a new package to enable the BWB to continue its conservation work.

A recent study, commissioned by the BWB, of six canal development schemes showed that they had succeeded in increasing employment and visitors to the areas. By enhancing the local environment, residential property prices nearby

House-builders too are now helping to regenerate riverside sites and defunct dockland areas. The massive evelopment work at London Docknds over the last 10 years, which ontinues, is a good example of ow areas can be rejuvenated. Along with building attractive along the water, developers are renewing cycle paths, walkways and river frontages which local councils do not have, or wish to allocate, the

St George, for example, has a number of schemes along the Thames from the Isle of Dogs in the Docklands, east London, down to Kingston upon Thames in Surrey. At Lockes Wharfin E14, a development of 424 one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments and 40 three- and fourwith public access to the site. There will be a restaurant, square and water feature built for the benefit of the general public, as well as the ing the properties. apartment owners. Prices range from £104,950 to £384,950.

At Charter Quay in Kingston, 213 apartments, five four-bedroom town houses, a fitness centre, a 550-seat theatre, restaurants and retail units will be built. A new public access will be built through the site, linking the historic Market Square with the river, and a new riverside walk will be created. St George will also be restoring Hoggsmill Creek, putting new bridges over this and creating a wetlands area for local wildlife.

This three-acre section of land

RATTY MAY have looked after his residential or mixed-use schemes doing this sort of development because everyoue is a winner. We are hoping to provide new homes, a new place for families to go, new jobs and

new access to the river." Prices will range from around £150,000 up to around £350,000.

In central Leeds, Berkeley Homes, in partnership with British Waterways, is planning a £100m waterside property development, adjacent to the River Aire and the Royal Armouries. On the 14-acre site, there will be a mix of residenbedroom town houses, the company tial, leisure and commercial propis creating a new riverside walkway erties creating a link along the waterfront from the city centre, through the Calls to the Royal Armouries. Knight Frank will be sell-

In South Wales, a massive £2.4bn regeneration programme is under way at Cardiff Bay. By next spring, the long-awaited barrage should be in place, turning the smelly, muddy landscape into an attractive waterside location. Some 2,700 new homes are being built overlooking this new 500-acre freshwater lake, along with terprises including a five-star hotel and a sports stadium. The American Prices start at £75,995. Bank One is building its European

headquarters there. David, which is putting up 226 apart- Knight Frank, 01132 461533; St Tony Carey, managing director of St ments and town houses at Adven-

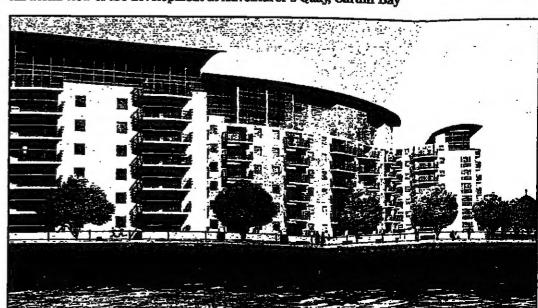
development by the new Inner Harbour. The company has also spent £70,000 building a bridge which gives public access from the resi-

dential to the commercial area. Two thirds of the development is already sold with properties available ranging from two- and threebedroom apartments priced from £87,590 to £315,000. Euan Cresswell. managing director at St David, says "It is already a very vibrant community. There is an assortment of restaurants and a leisure centre with 12 cinemas, all very busy, and the Welsh Assembly will be just 200 metres from our site. We recently brought back a couple of purchasers who bought last year and they were very surprised and impressed with

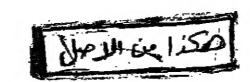
how things have progressed." And at Royal Learnington Spa in Warwickshire, McAlpine Homes Midlands is regenerating a former industrial site next to the Grand Union Canal. The scheme will consist of 10 three-bedroom houses and 88 one- and two-bedroom apartments and the company is creating an assortment of commercial enwhich runs adjacent to the canal.

British Waterways Board, 01923 One of the house-builders is St 226422; St George, 0181-917 4000; David, 01222 451085; McAlpine





Impression of the apartments at Fairview's Millennium Quay development at Greenwich



HOT SPOT

STREATHAM, SOUTH LONDON

Comfort for southerners

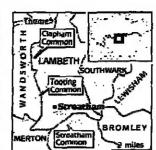
northern suburb of Brighton. It's actually no further south than Wimbledon, and if the oftpromised tube line had ever actually materialised, it would seem much less remote to Londoners. In any event the place is fairly self-sufficient.

Streatham has three stations, for trains to Victoria and London Bridge, and an enormous number of buses, but local traffic is still horrendous.

Many houses in Streatham are huge, and a large number have been converted. The result is an abundance of flats and houses in all sizes, shapes and prices, including new homes. Streatham also has unusual properties such as converted churches, says Townends manager Gayle Horne.

If a pleasant, affordable area is down the road from, and considerably cheaper than, Clapham, Wandsworth, Baiham and Brixton, growing families from such pricier locales will inevitably get on their bikes and move.

"People from Clapham sell their two-bedroom flats and buy a family house in Victorian and Edwardian houses



Streatham with the proceeds," says Ms Horne.

Or they move from a house to a property similar in size but appreciably cheaper and use the profit, says Nick Harrington, manager at the local Winkworths, to put their children into private school. State schools are also an option as "Streatham schools get rave reviews".

Buyers in the £250,000 to £500,000 category gravitate to-wards the Telford Park Estate, the area of Streatham closest to Clapham Park. "This area has many three-storey semidetached Victorian houses," says Mr Harrington. To its south, "any of the roads leading from Tooting Bec Common have well-presented, cheaper

with four, five or six bedrooms." Sunnyhili and Wellfield Roads form Streatham Village, 'full of pretty two- and threebedroom cottages built for railway workers and artisans between 1820 and 1900," says Mr Harrington. Some now have preservation orders on them.

Further south, Streatham

Common has properties that include three-bedroom Edwardian, 1930s modern, and very grand five- and six-bedroom lictorian and Edwardian. "These roads can't be used as a rat run, so they are always quiet," Mr Harrington explains. To the East is Streatham Vale, which has limited shopping, incredibly busy roads, tired houses and prices which

reflect all of the above. In Ms Horne's opinion, the best value is neither in the cheapest (Streatham Vale) nor the priciest (Telford Park Estate) areas: "Prices have already peaked in the area near Balham and Brixton Hill. Streatham Common has nice houses and hasn't yet peaked." Large ex-council houses are also available on the roads east of Streatham Hill.

ROBERT LIEBMAN From schools to property, 'forgotten' Streatham has a lot to offer

THREE TO VIEW

WILD ABOUT THE WEST

THE SCILLY Isles are about as far west as you can go in Britain, but there are very few properties for sale and none of them is cheap. One, on St Martin's, is North



Farm, a threebedroom farmhouse with one and a half acres and workshops. There's also a two-bedroom self-catering unit which is furnished and fully booked for the 1999 season. The house in Higher Town has a beamed sitting room with kitchen area and study. On the island there's a five-star hotel and a pub. Boats run regularly to the other islands, and the farm is about 400 yards from the sea in three directions. Offers in the region of £189,000; details from Island Properties (01720 422082).

the south Devon coast at Kingsbridge, where No 21 The Moorings

overlooks the Salcombe estuary. The two-bedroom, two-bathroom first floor flat has a 27ft sitting room and

views from a 13ft balcony which boasts timber decking and glazed windshield. There are two parking spaces within a protected security area, a dinghy parking space and running mooring. The communal gardens include a gazebo, a pergola and there is a shared store on the foreshore for keeping sails and boat equipment. Offers in the region of £189,000; details from Marchand Petit (01548 857588).

THERE ARE sea and country views from Two Coast Cottages at St Ives in Cornwall. The four-bedroom house on Penwith Moors, south-west of the town, is away from the holiday crowds who flock



here. It has a wood-burning stove in the dining room, exposed granite walls and a beamed ceiling in the study. Outside there is a garage, workshop, store rooms, loose box and dog run, with about 10 acres of paddocks. Offers in the region of £165,000; details from GA (01736 795212).

ROSALIND RUSSELL

THE LOW-DOWN

Prices: Prices decline as you move south, from £600,000-plus in Streatham Hill/Telford Park Estate, to half that in Streatham Common. Cottages in Streatham Village sell for £105,000-£145,000. lower in Streatham Vale. Flats cost about £35,000-£40,000 for a studio. 255,000-£75,000 for a one-bedroom. and £85-£135,000 for a two-bedroom. Transport: Three rail stations.

each on different lines. Streatham Common, the most southerly, serves Victoria, Clapham Common and London Bridge stations. Streatham station terminates at London Bridge, and Streatham Hill serves Victoria and, via Thameslink, Blackfriars and King's Cross. A brisk 30-minute walk to the west brings you to the tube in the form of Tooting Bec

station, on the Northern Line. There is quick access to Gatwick Airport and the M25. New build: Try Homes' 38-unit ParkGate has one- and twobedroom flats and three-, four- and five-bedroom houses (starting at £99,950 and £195,000 respectively) on Garrads Road, SW16, opposite Tooting Bec Common, St James's

St James Mews will consist of

seven three-storey townhouses (£185,000) on Potter's Lane, SW16. Gliding and riding: Between them, the 36-acre Streatham Common and the much larger Tooting Bec Common (150 acres) offer London's largest outdoor pool, horse-riding, tennis courts, a bowling green, and The Rookery. Wining and dining: Streatham High Road has several cinemas

and an ice rink; a Holmes Place leisure centre will open shortly, and decent wine bars and restaurants can't be far behind. "It's buzzy place for a London suburb," says Ms Horne. Council tax: Band A £431, Band H is £1.294

Agents: FPD Savills (Park Gate) 0181-769 3939; Townends 0181-769 9911; Winkworth 0181-769 6699

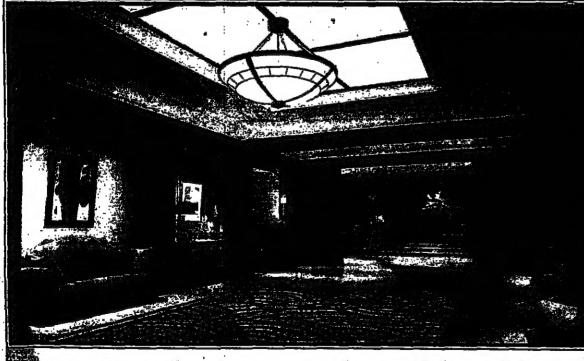
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